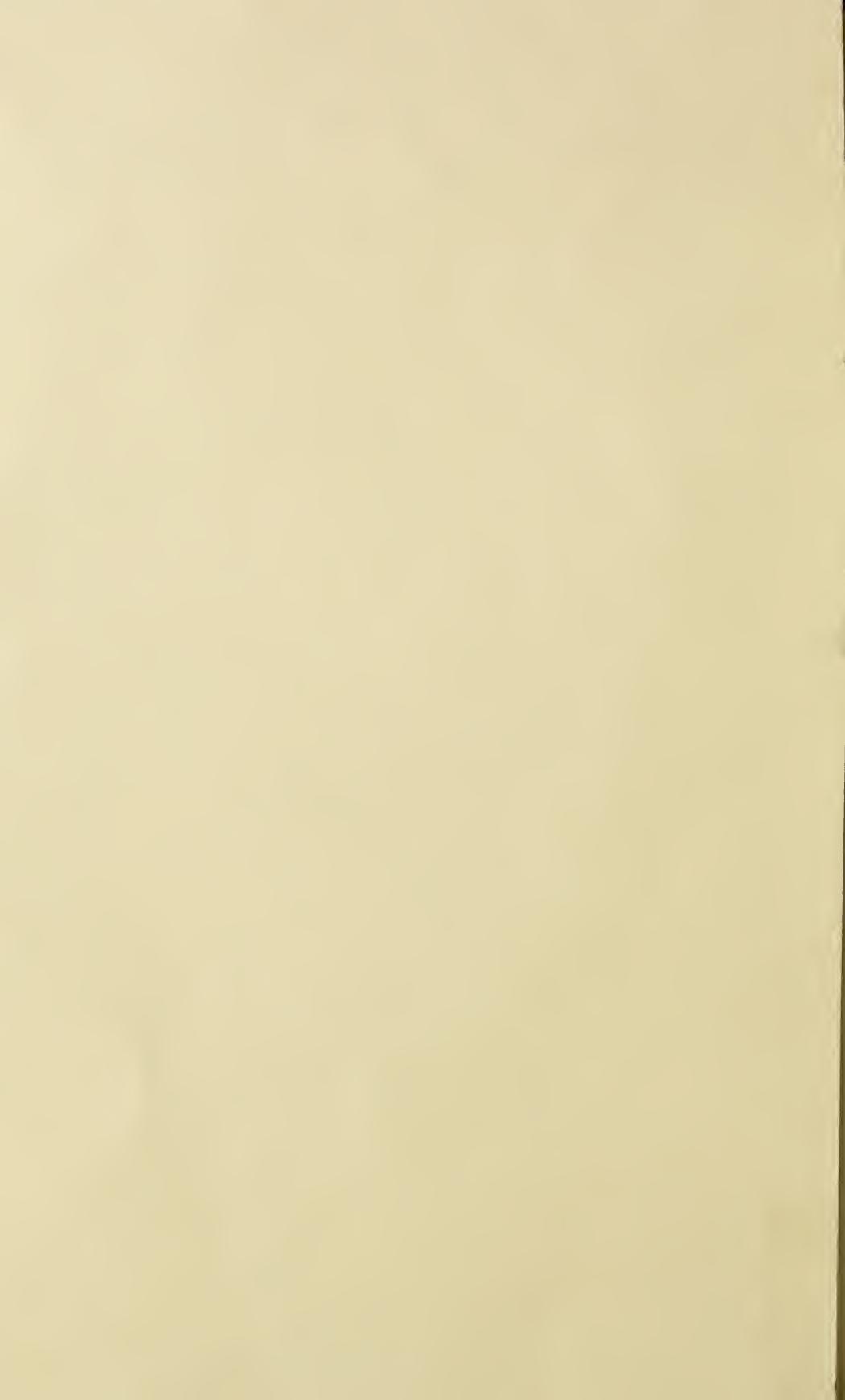


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THE
MARYLAND FARMER:
DEVOTED TO
Agriculture, Horticulture, and Rural Economy.

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All Hail to the New Year, 1882!

We sincerely give to our readers the greeting of a happy New Year. May its close find them in the full fruition of the happiness of health, peace, prosperity and content!

The year 1881 closed its eventful life on the last day of the last week of the last month. This was the year that Mother Shipton and also an Italian prophet predicted many years ago, the world would end. But these predictions proved false, and only strengthened the belief in the verity of the Scriptures, which proclaim that no man, not even the angels in heaven knoweth the hour when that terrible event will take place. During the past year, however, there were many circumstances which occurred of a startling character, so as to terrify thousands of nervous, credulous people into the apprehension that the end of the world was about to take place.

The year of 1881 was certainly one that will ever be memorable in the annals of the world and particularly so in American history, for its peculiarities of weather, incidents, accidents, great calamities and terrible disasters. To recapitulate the hundreds of strange events and unlooked for occurrences which have happened would occupy a book. Enough to recall a few only, such as the intense heat and long drought that visited many portions of the United States, the terrible conflagration that swept over thousands of acres in the West, destroying all vegetable life and many human beings,

besides birds and beasts innumerable; failure of crops from opposite causes in many sections of this vast country; the drying up of rivers and creeks; seven comets during the year and many other astronomical features not usually seen in one short period; signs and wonders of all sorts; and last, though not least, the assassination of a newly elected and beloved President of the United States.

The numerous examples of fruit trees and small fruits blossoming and bearing second crops of fruit, because of the seasonable weather and warmth of autumn, extending into the first winter month, notwithstanding an early severe frost in October, are facts worth recording. Such things have often occurred, but never before has this extraordinary effort of nature been so general and so perfect.

Yet, with all these drawbacks and sad mishaps that have brought individual grief and suffering to many, we, as a people, have much to be grateful for to the Divine Ruler. Our material prosperity as a nation is far in advance of any former period of our existence, and outstrips that of any other country of the old world in ten times the number of years. We have been blessed with health and a decrease in the bills of mortality. We, as a nation, know no want of the necessities of comfortable existence, or of even a reasonable supply of the elegancies and luxuries of life. These blessings are vouchsafed to all classes of American society. Temperance and industry open the door to the full enjoyment

of all the necessary appliances of happy contentment to all grades of social life. What more can a people desire? It is, therefore, a matter of congratulation with all our peoples that we live in a land of liberty, flowing with milk and honey, ruled by just laws, equal justice, and furnishing a home for the oppressed of all nations. Such a country has never been before known to exist so long, with such mighty power and unlimited extent of territory. Therefore we should rejoice and be happy in our individual as well as wonderful national prosperity. The increase of our sources of wealth have even excelled the continuous increase of population. The latter has exceeded the most extravagant calculations of sanguine statisticians. May the year 1882, just begun, be still more prosperous to our great and growing young Republic, now barely over 100 years old, and standing, in all material respects, at the head of all other principalities and powers on earth at this day.

Farm Work for January.

As this is the beginning of the new year of promise to the farmer we hope, let us beg each one to systematize his work as far as possible for the year. By this means much time vexation and worry may be prevented during the revolving seasons, when it often happens that necessary work comes all of a sudden and without previous arrangement or provision for such a contingency, much time is lost or the opportunity itself is gone before proper plans can be adopted, or the work is hurriedly and slovenly performed.

The mid-winter season is not one during which out-of-door operations can be carried on to any extent—the chief business of the farmers and planters of the Middle States, being restricted to the care of the stock, the repair of agricultural machinery and implements; the laying out of plans for the future culture of the fields which are to be brought under the plow in the spring, and lastly, a careful study during spare hours and on long winter evenings, of the information which agricultural journals impart on topics con-

nected with rural affairs generally. The work for the month comprises

SURFACE DRAINS.

A weekly examination of the surface drains which have been formed to protect the growing wheat from a superabundance of moisture should be had and all obstructions to the free passage of the water should be promptly removed.

FIRE-WOOD.

We have repeatedly called attention during previous months to the propriety of securing in due season an ample supply of fire-wood for the uses of the household. We presume that this has been done; but provision should also be made for a stock of fuel to last throughout the ensuing year. This kind of work can be performed to advantage in dry, bracing weather, during the mid-winter months better and with less interference to the regular field operations than at any other season.

FENCING.

Bad fences make breachy cattle. Good fences are among the most significant indications of a good farmer. They add moreover greatly to the appearance of the fields which they enclose, and are moreover desirable in every respect. Fencing stuff may be felled and cut into lengths suitable for rails and posts, and when split to their approximate sizes may be hauled at once to the barn or to sheds adjacent to it, where the posts may be hewed and morticed and the rails pointed ready for use at any future time.

STORE HOGS.

Continue to feed these carefully, moderately and regularly; give them occasional supplies of charcoal and rotten wood, and remember that warm, dry and clean sleeping apartments are equivalent to an extra quantity of food without them.

MATERIALS FOR MANURE.

We have already urged so frequently the importance of gathering together every species of rough, fibrous material for the purpose of converting it by the addition of the manure drawn from the stables and cow-sheds into a most valuable compost that it is scarcely necessary to do more at this time than to reiterate our suggestions under this head.

GATES.

Bars are a nuisance. They waste time at seasons of the year when time is the most precious. As temporary substitutes for gates their occasional use may be tolerated, but as any handy man who has an ordinary knowledge of the use of tools can construct a gate, some of the spare hours of winter could not be better employed

than in getting them ready to replace such bars as may at present constitute the entrance way into the fields and cattle roads.

FOWLS.

To keep fowls warmly sheltered during the winter is to promote their early laying in the spring. If they lay early they will set early, and as spring chickens are a delicacy for the table and bring a high price in the market, pleasure and profit may both be consulted by providing fowls with such protection as they require. Keep the floors of the fowl house clean. Furnish them with sand and slack lime and ashes with occasional messes of fresh meat, cut fine, and with a little grain and a constant supply of fresh water they will amply repay the care taken of them. Give them a warm mess daily of a mixture of vegetables, well cooked, and meal or bran with a little seasoning of salt.

PLOWING.

There often occurs during this month, a fine, open spell of weather that can profitably be embraced by plowing all stiff clayey spots or fields, and sub-soiling the same and leaving it in the rough for the action of the frost and snow.

IMPLEMENT.

There is no one machine more indispensable to the farmer than a corn and cob mill, if time, economy and usefulness enter into the management of farm stock. This mill pays for itself every month where there are thirty or forty head of stock of all sorts to be fed daily with grain. No better food can be given to all kinds of stock than corn and cob meal, coarsely ground, and for cattle, mules and horses, if it be mixed with fine cut hay or even straw well dampened and softened with warm water. That the cob is of much value when thus ground is no longer a matter of doubt, because both practical experience and science have demonstrated that important fact, and every intelligent stock breeder now feels that a Young America Corn and Cob Mill is essential to both economy and profit in stock feeding.

Says a prominent horseman, in giving his opinion of Vanderbilt's mare, Maud S., whose great feat at Chicago put her at the head (and dubbed her the "Queen of the Turf.") "In my opinion the time is not far distant when a two minute gait will be recorded." It will certainly be the case if horsemen continue to use Kendall's Spavin Cure, as it limbers up the joints, removes all blemishes, and in fact has made a complete revolution in the horse business.

Garden Work for January.

Nothing can be done in regard to garden work this month, except where hot beds and frames are used to force vegetables to early maturity. These hot-beds and frames should be closely watched and allow all the air and sunlight that is prudent, and this must be left to the experienced judgment of the gardener or him who directs the management of the culinary garden. The walks and beds may be cleaned up if such work has not been already done. Small plants may be thinned of branches and suckers where it is necessary they be pruned. Compost heaps can be made and preparations for new hot-beds and frames carried on. Bean poles and pea sticks or pea brush from the beech or birch can now be secured; the former, owing to its many twigs is the best material for the purpose of brushing peas. See that all the garden tools are put in order and new ones wanted are procured in time, so that they will be ready for use at any time.

For the Maryland Farmer.

A Field of Grass.

Farm it as we may, practice rotation of crops, yet, there is a continual dying out of our grasses, and re-seeding the land does not permanently re-establish them—and the enquiry continually comes, why the grass does not hold its footings. The old theories attribute it to different condition of season, grubs, freezing out, dying out, and the like, and modern science says it comes from lost fertility, that constant grazing has depleted the soil, and that the plant food has migrated in the form of beef butter, mutton, etc. To a certain extent their specifications enter into the complete answer, but that there are other causes, no one can doubt.

If a close examination of our grass lands is made, the level lands, where the water line remains high, or close to the surface, the grass is usually found of vigorous growth and unbroken turf, for the mixture that this soil more uniformly contains keeps the growing roots alive and spreading, and continually throwing off new shoots, which the more rolling land is unable to do so continuously, owing to interrupted moisture.

The time of cutting grass has much to do with its permanency. Grass like tim-

ber has its proper time for cutting, and the lessening of injury to the roots. Grasses that have spreading roots, like red top and its kindred varieties, are best early cut, as nature at once sets about repairing the loss with new shoots, but Timothy needs to be fully developed, from the fact that its bulbous roots are also putting out new bulbs for the next crop, and to sever the stalk, cuts off a large dependency for the support of this new growth, and unless conditions are exceedingly favorable, the bulb with its new offspring dies.

The value of our grass lands to produce is also largely influenced by a lacking of fertility at the time of seeding down, which is usually done with some kind of grain, and by withholding this element, the wheat taking the more rapid and vigorous growth deprives the grass root of its share, and the grass root thus held back, is either frozen or burnt out as the case may be, a matter which could have been avoided if abundant fertility had first been applied. To this might be pointed out a score of whys, but in the main, shallow drainage, a friable loose condition of the soil to facilitate the spreading of the grass roots, sufficient fertility mixed into the soil, limited pasturage of meadows and judicious cutting of hay, as regards time, will, as a rule, result in a good field of grass.

It is quite likely that self-seeded lots, if kept enriched, come nearest to meeting the requirements, but the fact is that nature does not always produce upon demand or of the right sorts, so that human agency is needed. Manure and moisture are the two great essentials in grass growing, and there is no reason why, if land is kept enriched, it may not be relied upon for a crop. When meadows that produce the tame grasses, like timothy and red top, enriching of some kind needs to be repeated each year. One of the most serious damages done to meadows is feeding off the aftermath early in the fall, and leaving the roots unprotected until nature kindly sends a covering of snow. Either of these kinds will stand much hard usage by the elements but show bad treatment from the farmer very soon. If the aftermath is allowed to remain and serve as a mulch for the soil, a good benefit will be received from the crop of hay following, more than balancing the gain from a few days feeding, and to this and early cutting should be resorted to, so

that the roots may be enabled to cover themselves with a coating of cool green before the parching days of July, and if the season should be favorable, the aftermath could be cut with far less damage than will follow feeding it off the land.

OHIO.

J. G.

For the Maryland Farmer.

Manuring Grass Lands.

Unless the land is in "good heart" it is desirable to manure the grass fields to secure that yield which makes it profitable to grow grass for hay, or for pasturing; and the purposes for which the grass is to be used has much to do in determining how it should be done. By securing an early and vigorous start, and then keeping the grass growing rapidly, a season of drought does not seem to affect it near as much as it does that which has been neglected in this respect. When manuring lands intended for pasturing, we do not think it a good policy to do so with stable manure, especially when applied in the spring, for the refuse matter which is left on the grass is frequently taken into the stomach of the cows, horses, &c., to their evident detriment. When such manure as this is applied to grass lands, we prefer having it done in the fall, when the winter frosts and snows prevent any of the bad effects which may follow a spring application. Where it can be done, bone dust is preferable for the permanent grass lands. It is not quite so active in its immediate effects as is stable or barnyard manure, but it is lasting, bringing the best possible kind of grass, timothy sod especially being benefitted. Coarse manure should never be applied to grass lands, no matter whether the land is for pasture or for hay, for the trash is apt to come in the way and is decidedly objectionable. Liquid manuring is frequently resorted to by those who have the "conveniences" for applying it, which "conveniences" consist of a hogshead rigged on wheels and supplied with a sprinkling apparatus, similar to the street water carts in our large cities. By having a pit, drain or cistern near the barnyard, so arranged as to slope, and solid bottom so as to carry the liquid manure to the pit made for the purpose, and from which it is removed by a suction and force pump to the watering cart. In the fall and spring this can be

used, also during the summer, but not on the lands constantly pastured. If it is desirable to use it on the latter let the pasture lie idle for a week or so, until it leaves the grass and then turn in the stock. If the drainage from the barnyard is insufficient to supply the demand, more can be made by soaking the manure in water.

D. Z. EVANS, JR.

Ensilage at Spring Farm.

We have just opened our silo, and feel quite elated at our success. It is in splendid condition and every animal we have given it has at once taken to it. Bulls, cows, heifers and calves, hogs, sheep and rabbits, all have eaten it without hesitation, with evident relish and without waste. There is no longer any doubt in my mind as to the very great value to us of this new method of feeding. It will better the farm returns considerably, although I am far (in my experience) from the very fanciful estimates and supposed results to be expected from the articles published and books written on this subject. I feel in duty bound to give full results of this experiment that it may correct the exaggerated accounts already too often given. I do not think it fair or advantageous to give highly colored, exaggerated accounts or estimates of even the very best of things, as the actual results will always be so far below the expectations that many will be discouraged before fully testing the merits of the thing.

Now for actual facts: Having no money to venture in experiments, I proceeded thus: Under part of the barn I dug a cellar, 28 feet long and 12 feet wide, 7 feet deep, clear of the barn floor beams. This I had walled with stones on the two short ends and on one of the long ones. The other side I boarded against the earth with hemlock boards. The bottom is in sandy soil, so hard that the pick is required to dig into it. It is dry and free from spring or surface water. My idea was, that should the silo prove a failure, I would still have a serviceable cellar under part of the barn. I planted 2½ acres of corn in drills 3 feet apart; one kernel dropped every five or six inches in the row. The soil was good and the culture properly attended to. The crop looked fair. I cut several stalks which measured 11 and 12 feet in height and weighed 5 and 5½ pounds each. We be-

gan cutting the corn on September 11, and we carted it directly to the barn floor, where with horse power and a Lion masticator, it was cut fine. This machine crushes the cobs and stalks very fine, which I consider of great value. The corn had some very fine ears on part of it, some quite glazed. The whole went through the cutter and no part can be distinguished as stalks or cobs.

We began by putting a layer of 8 to 12 inches of rye straw, cut fine, then about 12 to 15 inches of green corn, then another layer of straw, then again corn, and so on, until the whole pit was filled and the last layer of straw stood one foot above the floor of the barn. This gave fully 9 feet of cut fodder and straw. We pressed it only by stepping on it. While spreading evenly and salting, which we did to every layer of straw except the three top ones. To fill this, took the crop of two acres of ground in corn, and we can safely count on one-quarter of it as straw. After filling, we covered it with hemlock boards and then piled stones about 18 inches in depth over the whole. This weight has settled the whole mass down to 5 feet in thickness and it is quite solid and compact. About three inches of the top, immediately under the boards is too black and rotten for use, but under that, although emitting a very strong alcoholic smell and showing a temperature of 70°, while the outside temperature was 28°, the fodder and straw are quite soft, full of juice, and of nice brown-green color, somewhat like canned rhubarb.

Now as to results. I have no means to weigh a cubic foot of ensilage, and will take the weight given by other writers on this subject, say 50 pounds to the cubic foot. This weight I believe exaggerated, but as I have not had, as yet, an opportunity to test this point, I will admit it. The inside measurement of my mass of ensilage is 10 by 24 by 5 feet, or 1,200 cubic feet, 60,000 pounds or 30 tons. One-quarter is straw, and leaves for the corn crop of 2 acres of ground, 22½ tons. Add to this ten per cent. for loss of moisture, which is about right, and we have for a very fair crop of fodder corn, 12½ tons per acre. This is actual and not estimated, except as to the 50 pounds per cubic foot. We come very much below the 30, 60 and 90 tons per acre of some of the excited writers on ensilage.

But I fear very few can do much better, and I will not base any future estimates for myself on anything better, although I shall try to improve and hope to do so. But even this is very encouraging. With this mass of ensilage I can feed 3 or 4 head of cattle, or 8 head for 180 days; or I can mix it with other fodder or hay, or change off and thus work it to great advantage. This assures any good farmer the keeping of two head of cattle upon one acre of ground, a result thus far unattained. My whole crop of corn will be ensilaged next year, as I shall save by it husking, shelling, grinding, and all the great trouble and work these operations involve.

The cost of my 30 tons of ensilage I compute as follows:—Raising the crop, including interest, \$53.50; cutting \$3.3; equal to, say \$2.90 per ton. Its comparative nutritive value with corn fodder or hay I have not tested yet, but will try this point carefully.

L. A. G.

In *Country Gentleman*.

Rye as a Soiling Crop.

The dry season has brought into prominent notice the subject of green fodder crops. Pastures and meadows have been seriously injured by the drought and the winter store of fodder has been drawn upon for the support of the stock. There cannot fail to be a scarcity of fodder in the spring, and it will not do to turn cattle upon the meadows already weakened by the want of rain for ten weeks consecutively. Some provisions for the supply of the cows will be required. There is none that can be so easily made as by sowing now a few acres of rye. This should be done as soon as possible, because an early start, if the ground is good and the season propitious, will afford some pasturage before the winter sets in. To secure this will repay the cost of a moderate application of fertilizer, which will not only begin to return its cost this season, but will make a second dividend in the spring. For soiling or for pasturage, rye will be found the most valuable crop of the season. It is cheaper than wheat, is far better as a fodder and is ready for use earlier. It is productive of milk if it is cut before it is hard and dry, and the surplus if not before the grain is formed makes excellent hay. It will make a good crop of fodder upon poor soil and

on this account is especially adapted for the beginning of a course of improvement of a poor farm.

But there are some points in regard to its culture and uses, upon which erroneous ideas are current. In the first place there needs to be a thicker seeding than is usual when the crop is sown for grain, and the poorer the soil the thicker should be the seeding up to four or five bushels per acre. I have sown all the way from two and one-half to five bushels to the acre, and three and one-half or four have given the best yield of the best fodder, which is all the better the finer it is. Thick seeding gives a thin, slender, tall, leafy growth, which is the best for both fodder and hay. With three and one-half bushels of seed and 300 pounds of a complete concentrated fertilizer, I have grown a crop which cut 110 pounds of green fodder to the square rod, or more than 8 $\frac{1}{3}$ tons to the acre early in May. This is quite equal to the maximum expectation of the yield of soiling crops, which is that the produce of a square rod should support a cow for one day, and an Ayrshire or Jersey cow will not consume more than 60 pounds of green rye in a day, when she is provided with four or five quarts of meal with it.

The most disappointing mistake in regard to this crop is that it can be cut several times in the season. This is altogether out of the question. The habit of growth of rye is to throw out a bunch of radical leaves, or imperfect stalks with spreading leaves in the fall. If the season is warm and long continued, the roots spread by throwing out new sets of similar leaves until the ground is completely covered as with a sod; If the seed has been sown early and the warm weather continues, the stalks may throw up from the centre of each an ear-bearing stem, the ear of which may or may not emerge from the sheath. In either case, to cut this or permit it to be grazed off, destroys the ear, and the plant must throw up new off-shoots from the roots or the crop of grain is destroyed, so that a very vigorous crop needs to be pastured down in the fall, not so much to prevent smothering in the winter, as some think, but to check its luxuriance and succulence, which encourages the growth of seed stalks in the fall, and causes it to succumb to the frost or to rot under the close covering of a deep wet snow. In the

spring, the plants do not tiller so much as in the fall, unless when very forward and vigorous they are pastured down and checked somewhat, but they soon throw up the ear shoot. If the crop is cut, this must be done before the sheath has come into range of the scythe, otherwise the embryo ear is cut off and the crop is confined to those stalks which have been so far delayed in their growth by the vigor of the leading ones. At any rate then the cutting must necessarily be done while the herbage is small and before the main shoots have grown to a length of three inches, else the second growth will be very light. The first cutting of rye, in fact, will be so light as to be hardly worth taking, and if it is worth it, the second growth will be very light. I have grown rye for soiling, more or less, for fifteen years, and have never yet found it to yield a double cutting worth the labor; if the first is good for anything, the second is next to worthless; and if the second is to be good, the first must be taken so early as to be of little value. There is very little growth in rye before April, and as rye often shows ears in April, it must be very clear that there cannot be time to make much of a first cutting and yet get a second one. In fact, one may, under favorable circumstances, turn a few calves on to the rye in the fall or spring, but not cows, excepting under rare and special circumstances, and then merely to save the rye rather than to feed the cows a full meal.

When the heads appear the cutting of rye may begin and may last until it is in full blossom, when it should be cut and made into hay. At this time, which will be in June, the clover and early grass will be ready for cutting and the rye will be getting hard and woody. Rye has often disappointed those who have grown it for soiling, because it has been cut too late; for as soon as it gets tough and hard it is poor milk producing food; but when it is young it is different. As soon as the blossoms appear it should be cut and not left a day longer.

When there is ample store of fodder the rye cannot be put to a better use than to plow it under as a green manure for corn. This can be done with ease when it is five or six feet tall, by means of the drag chain recently described in the *Rural*; and the stalks completely covered. The surface

should then be rolled and harrowed by a sloping tooth harrow so that the rye is not torn up. This course pursued for a few years, with rye and corn alternately, and the rye sown again on the corn stubble, will make a light soil as rich as a garden. If this is done or proposed to be done, there should be twice as much rye sown as will be cut, and then one-half can be plowed in alternate years. In cutting the rye it should not be forgotten to leave a sufficient quantity to the last, and put it in sheaves and dry it for making bands for binding the fodder corn in sheaves. This is the most convenient manner of putting up fodder corn and rye straw is the best material for binding. H. Stewart, in *Rural New Yorker*.

REMARKABLE IS THE RESUSCITATION OF THE SOUTH.—Since the fine rains succeeding the long drouth, we have encouraging reports from the South. Grass has grown rapidly, cattle are getting fat, and other stock requiring strong feeding during winter months, will fare well with a mild season on lowland pastures and thereby relieve the necessities of a short grain and hay crop. As a proof of what our expectations are founded on, we make an extract from a private letter of a friend in the Roanoke valley:

"It is strange that rains came and vegetation forgot the season; the dead, frost-bitten tobacco stalk with its rotten leaves stands to manure the sucker from the ground; the last boll of cotton opened long ago, the frost cut down the stalks and suckers are blooming and bolling ready to give us a Xmas crop! I am sure no one ever saw such a sight before."

PROLIFIC CORN.—Mr. Waiworth, of Baltimore city, raised a fine crop of corn this year on his farm in Anne Arundel county. One stalk of the Blount Prolific variety had eight good ears on it, some of which were ten inches long. This famous variety is an eight eared white corn.

The color and lustre of youth are restored to faded or gray hair by the use of Parker's Hair Balsam, a harmless dressing highly esteemed for its perfume and purity.

For the Maryland Farmer.

Improvement of Grains.

The question of deterioration or "running out" of grains from continued use upon the same farm, is one that has come to the attention of farmers with much frequency. With many, this effect when it is acknowledged to exist, is believed to result from a careless selection of seed, improper cultivation, a want of sufficient fertility in the soil, or from semi-combinations of some or all the causes named.

Judging from results that have followed from the use of carefully selected seed, made with special size and weight, it is reasonable to suppose that reverse results may follow when an opposite course is pursued or want of care in the selection of seed. Thus, if the yield of grain can be increased several bushels per acre in quantity, and some pounds per bushel in weight, by the use of seed that is above an average in size and weight, might it not be expected that a corresponding decrease in quantity and weight would follow from the use of seed that is below an average in the respects of size and weight?

Improvement in the physical world, as well as in the moral, is marked by a change for the better. In morals, the profane man is said to have improved in some degree, when he has made such selection in the use of his language, as weeds out or rejects from use the profane words which detract in their profuse use from his moral worth.

So in agriculture, there is many a crop harvested that contains partially developed, ill-shaped and poor seeds, that detract from the actual value of the same commercially, if allowed to remain with the good, the same as the moral character of a community is affected by gross immorality.

But a few bushels of nubbins of corn mixed with many bushels that are good, may seriously injure the whole to the eye. They are like the profane words to the ear, they must be eradicated by selection.

Then upon the principle that "like produces like," how infinitely worse must be the condition of things when some such seed through carelessness or accident, is used for reproduction. This shows the necessity for great care and the exercise of sound judgment in the selection of seeds of all kinds that are grown upon the farm

With the precaution of a judicious selection, results may yet be unsatisfactory by reason of other conditions: thus the more *thorough the tillage* the more satisfactory the results; and so too a reverse of the proposition must of necessity produce a reversal of the results. From the mandate that man "in the sweat of his brow should eat his own bread," it may be learned by inference if in no other way, that nature will not accomplish her grandest results unless man lends a helping hand; so, although the seed may be put in the soil, that is possessed of unlimited fertility, if it receive further attention it will not arrive at full development in any part, which of course includes the seed for future use; then, as a matter of course the use of seed from such growth only serves to increase the difficulty.

The last condition named, fertility, may also greatly deteriorate grains, even when the best selected seed are used, because every plant requires a certain amount of nutrition to secure its perfect development in all its parts.

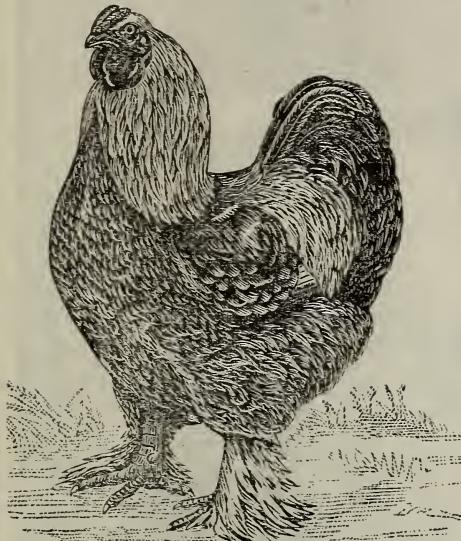
The necessity, therefore, for perfecting outside conditions, to secure the best development of seeds and plants will be clearly seen; and as one of the most important conditions, let care be used in the selection of seeds.

A work, a little time since written, by Charles Darwin and published by D. Appleton & Co., bears very closely upon the subject of improvement of seeds by the fertilization or germ growing principle that is possessed by plants in the pollen that is cast upon the stigma to convey life to the seed. By a series of carefully tried experiments, he found that plants were increased in size and weight by means of cross-fertilization, *i. e.*, by means of other plants than those of the same group, and that the best results have followed when the plants were grown under different conditions. This may explain why an exchange of grains from a colder to a warmer climate, is believed to be advantageous; and also why planting the seeds of different kinds of corn, or from different localities will produce a mixed variety more vigorous than of any of those planted. The question of the improvement of seeds, or the plants themselves, is one of deep interest and should be carefully studied by all farmers. Columbia, Con.

WILLIAM H. YEOMANS.

POULTRY HOUSE.

Conducted by T. B. Dorsey,
St. Denis, Baltimore Co.,



The Dark Brahma.

Starting from the same ground plan or original stock, this variety of the Asiatic family has kept pace in the matter of improvement with the light. There is really scarcely a perceptible difference between the two, except in point of color. In size, egg-laying qualities and the like, they will almost score point for point. In the matter of color, each variety has its admirers and their claims to preference is advocated with equal fervor. If on a broad grass field or a fine lawn, the pure white body color of the Light, with its handsome black markings on wings, tail and back, cannot fear a rival. On the other hand, for villas near the smoke and dust of a great city, or small cottages in a manufacturing village, the sober grey pencilled hen of the Dark Brahma need not fear the smut which will tarnish the purity of her congener's plumage, and the richly contrasting solid black breast and tail, and grey hackle and saddle of the cock possess as much beauty as the plumage of the light. I have never been able to make up my mind as to which variety I liked best and even to-day, were I breeding Asiatic fowls, would as soon have

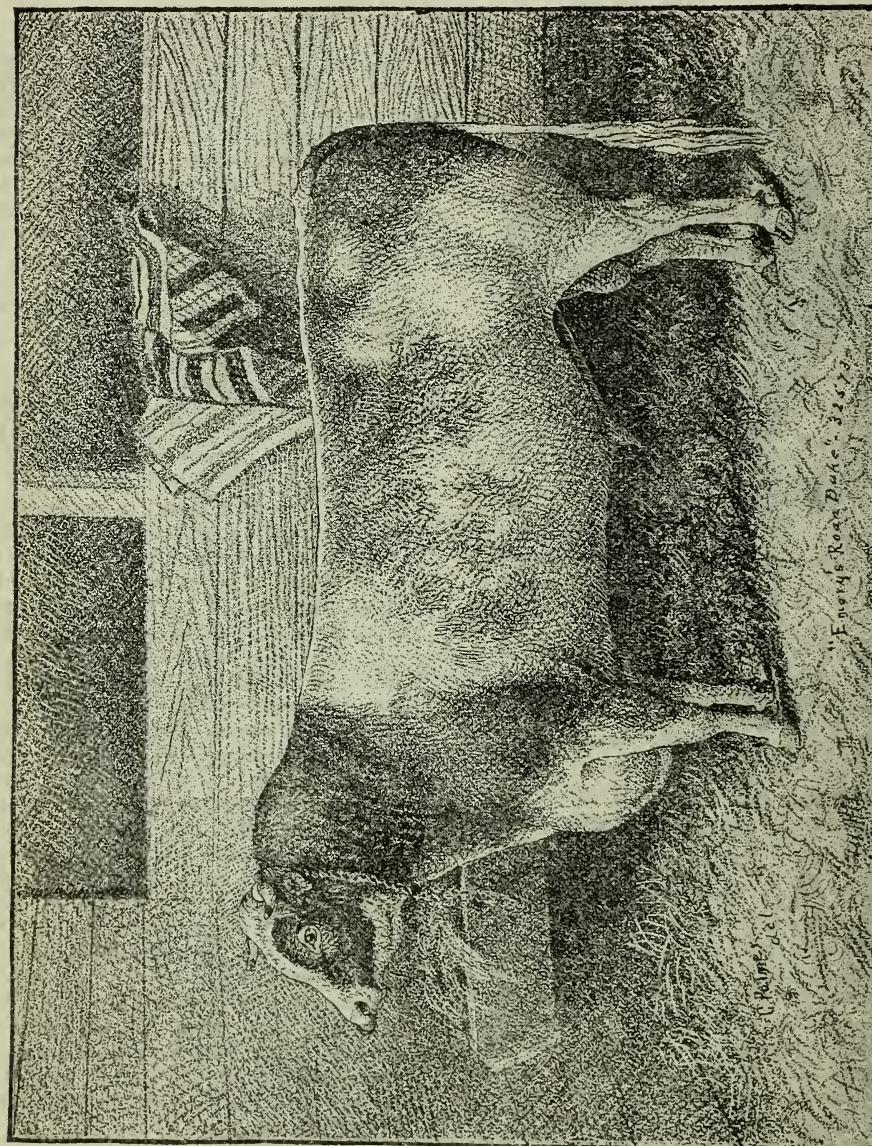
a yard of one as the other. They are bred to a very high quality of excellence in our own State, and I have seen birds shown at our State Fair that could hold their own anywhere.

KEEPING FOWLS BUSY.

Anyone who has ever paid any attention to the domestic fowl will have noticed that there is no animal in the world as restless and as continually on the go as a hen. They seem never to rest. Scratching here, picking there, cackling on one side of the fence, clucking on the other, there is scarcely a moment in the day, from sunrise to sundown, in which Biddy seems not to have something on hand. This is in her natural state of freedom, or with the unlimited range of a large farm. But it has from long ages of heredity become a necessity to her health and well being. Therefore when an amateur begins the breeding of fancy fowls and if he keeps more than one variety, is of necessity compelled to keep them in some degree confined. This peculiarity of Mrs. Biddy is one which is frequently overlooked and frequently to the serious detriment of her health. Take notice of a yard of birds that are confined in narrow corners and you will find that after their morning feed, they, having nothing to do, will mope around, stick their heads under their wings, sulk on the roost and the like. In consequence of this, the lack of exercise produces ill-health, and all kinds of diseases result before the breeder happens to notice it. It is easy to prevent. Make a big heap of leaves in your yard and scatter feed in it. Turn the Biddies out, and digging up a small portion of her yard, sow some grain in it and rake it lightly over; then watch my ladies at work. Every leaf will be turned over, every clod pulverized, every grain hunted for and happy in occupation, and too busy to sulk and quarrel, their healthy look and joyous cluck will give token of a glorious egg harvest. Little things often produce large results and the attention given to Biddy's little peculiarities will often repay her master and provider.

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Write to Mrs. Lydia E. Pinkham, No. 233 Western Avenue, Lynn, Mass., for pamphlets relative to the curative properties of her vegetable compound in all female complaints.

LIVE STOCK REGISTER.



EMORY'S ROAN DUKE.

EMORY'S ROAN DUKE.—Entered 16th vol., No. 27701, and 18th vol., A. H. B., 32,573; calved 14th June, 1876. Bred by Thomas L. McKeen, Easton, Pa., and sired by Duke of Chesnut Grove, 21494. Now owned by E. B. Emory, Esq., Poplar Grove Stock Farm, Centreville, Queen Anne's Co., Md.

Our Illustrations.

We give a fine picture of the specimen Berkshires of the herd of Mr. Emory of Centreville, Queen Anne's Co., Md., also a life picture of his late brood bull, "Emory's Roan Duke," a light roan in color. This bull is of fine form and style and the getter of calves of great symmetry of form. He has fine, silky hair and a mellow skin, and weighed (not over fat in his four year old form, 2155 pounds. He has been the recipient of premiums wherever he has been exhibited. His calves bring from \$60 to \$125 each for bulls, and \$75 to \$125 for heifers, according to size and the cows they are out of. They are usually red or rich roan in color. This superb animal stands at \$20 for each service, and his popularity is such that he is much sought after by breeders in the State. This bull is much admired by his Eastern Shore patrons and his calves are in great demand.

The sire of Emory's Roan Duke, the Duke of Chestnut Grove, was bought of T. S. Cooper, when a calf, by Mr. McKeene for \$2300. He was sired by 6th Duke of Geneva, (30959,) who with nine others, was sold to Lord Dunmore for £10,000 or about \$50,000 and was thought to be the best bull in England. 2nd Duke of Hillhurst, a half brother of the Duke of Chestnut Grove, also by 6th Duke of Geneva and out of Duchess 97 was sold at public sale, at Col. Kings, May 21st, 1874, for \$14,000 to Earl Beective, England. Duchess 66th from whom all the American Duchesses are descended was purchased at the Testworth Court Sale for six hundred guineas. At the public sale of Hon. S. Campbell, New York, 12 Duchesses averaged \$20,000, the 8th Duchess of Geneva bringing \$40,600.

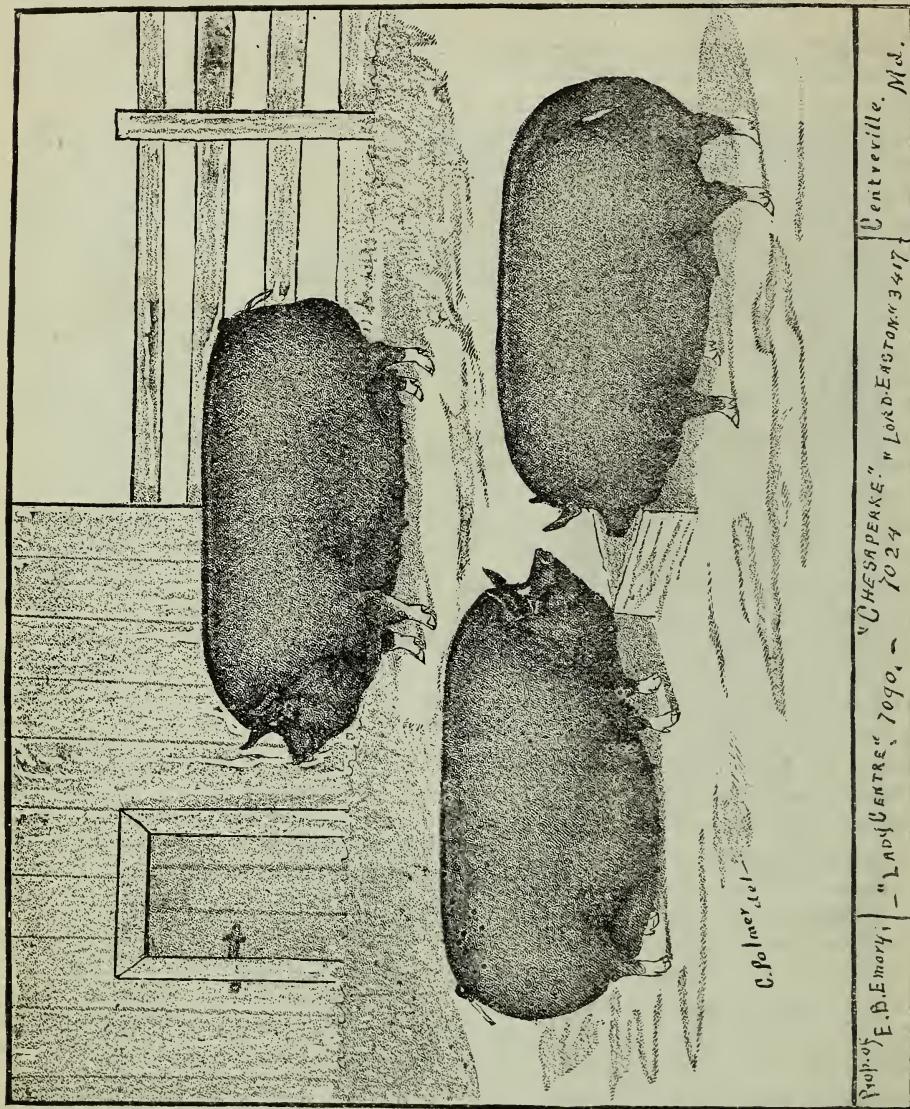
We are also enabled to give a beautiful picture of Mr. Dunham's famous imported Percheron mare, Mignonette, and colt. Mr. Dunham is well known to our readers as one of, if not the largest, importers and

breeders of this admirable race of French horses in this country. As roadsters and draught horses they are said to be unsurpassed as a breed. They are in that line only rivalled by the English Cleveland Bays.

The sale of Messrs. Cooper & Maddux of Oxford Park, Ohio, of part of their herd of Jersey cattle, in New York city, on the 1st of December, was one of the best sales ever made in this country, and attracted by the superiority of the animals offered, a large attendance of the breeders of Jerseys, in this country. Prices paid for all the cattle sold were uncommonly high for Jerseys.

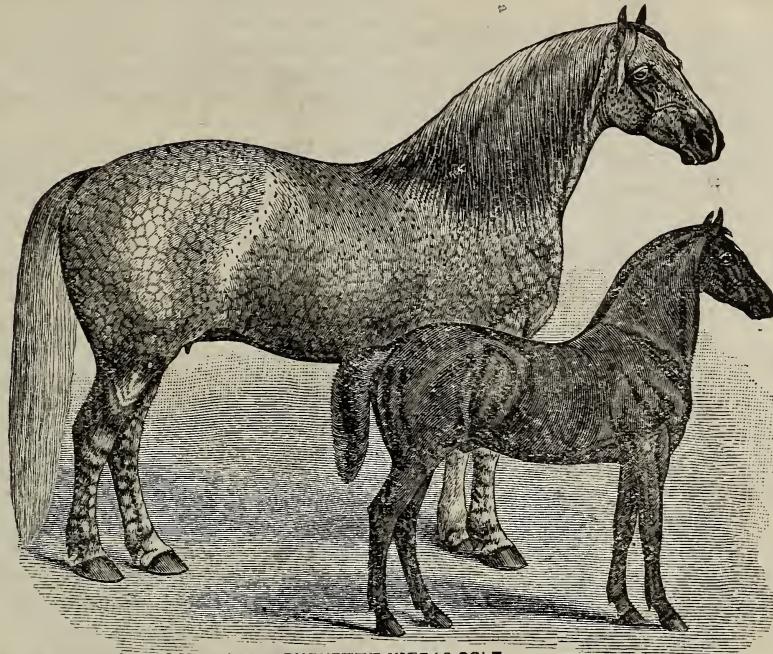
Two of the animals sold came to Baltimore. Mr. J. E. Phillips purchased a young, in-bred Coomassie bull calf for \$250, and Mr. Samuel M. Shoemaker the imported bull Forget-me-not, aged 18 months for \$2,150. This animal's dam is a splendid cow, and his sire also sold at the same sale for \$3400 to Mr. Havemeyer of New York, is a noted prize winner. Forget-me-not himself, gained three first prizes at the annual show on the Island of Jersey, this summer, as best of his age, head of best herd, and as best marked animal, according to Guenon's Escutcheon test. He is a noble animal and will add, doubtless, to the reputation in which our Maryland Jersey stock is held. An advance of \$500 beyond the price paid was refused by his purchaser, and three of his future calves are already engaged ahead at \$250 each, at one day old. Mr. Shoemaker's farm manager, Mr. Rucklesen, bid \$1,050 for the imported cow, Rose Third, but she was sold to another bidder for 1,100.

We never saw anyone joyous when suffering from pain—neuralgia for instance. In relation to this malady Mr. George Guyett, proprietor Guyett House, thus informed our representative: "I have used St. Jacobs Oil for neuralgia, and can confidently recommend it to anyone similarly affected."



The above cut represents a fair sample of Mr. E. B. Emory's Berkshires. He breeds for great fleshiness, and his herd of 20 breeding sows show great uniformity and great weight, and his pigs of 4 and six months, fully illustrate the fact that the Berkshire is the hog to fatten at any age; they are little beauties and their legs are so short that their bodies are almost on the ground. Mr. E. finds the demand for them greatly increased this year and proposes to enlarge his herd by the introduction of 10 young choice bred sows. He has choice bred representatives of Smythie De-Witt, Robin Hood, who sold for \$1400, Belladonna, for which \$1600 was refused, Lord Liverpool sold for \$700, Royal Duchess for \$400, and of the well known Imperial Hillhurst Rose, as well as of the world renowned Sallies. Mr. E. has sold nearly fifty pigs during 1881, at from \$10 to \$25 each.

IMPORTED PERCHERON MARE, MIGNONETTE AND COLT.



IMP. MIGNONETTE N°584 & COLT.

We give a beautiful picture of the Percheron Mare, Mignonette and her colt. She was winner of the first prize and gold medal at the great show of France; grand medal, at Centennial, 1876, and grand sweepstakes prize and gold medal for best mare of all breeds at Chicago Fair, 1881—the property of Mr. M. W. Dunham, Wayne, Dupage Co., Illinois.

•••
FINE JERSEYS FOR BALTIMORE.

The friendly rivalry among Baltimore county Jersey breeders as to who shall own the finest herd seems to be spirited. At the sale of imported Jerseys at Herkness Bazaar, in Philadelphia, on the 8th inst., the cream of the whole importation was brought to Baltimore, as follows: John Gill, six animals—Reita, 5 years, \$1,150; Browny Second, 5 years, \$340; Num 4, 3 years, \$475; Thrush, 3 years, \$800; Princess Third, 3 years, \$800; Gazelle, 7 years, \$590. In this lot Reita, Thrush and Princess third were, the best. Reita is an animal whose superior in outward form and coloring has probably never been seen in Maryland, if, indeed, in

this country. Mr. John E. Phillips added to his already large herd the heifer Dahlia Fourth, 3 years, \$600—a remarkably well-developed heifer, having an udder which at the sale measured sixty inches in circumference, and this with her first calf. Mr. G. S. Watts, whose fine herd of Guernseys are familiar, purchased Syren Second, 3 years, \$1,050, and her heifer calf, 6 weeks old for \$425. The calf is by a son of Farmer's Glory, shot recently, sold for \$3,200, and a half brother of Mr. S. M. Shoemaker's bull, Forget me not, which he purchased a week ago for \$2,150. Mr. T. Alexander Seth whose cow Arawana Buttermilk took first prize at the county and State Fairs this fall, has also secured her a mate, but little if any inferior, in Atlanta, 6 years, \$330, in calf to the son of Farmer's Glory. These cattle which Mr. Shoemaker recently purchased are probably the most important additions ever made to the herds of Maryland, and it has been suggested that some arrangement be made by which they could be shown at a fair worthy of such animals.—*Balto. Sun.*

Attention! every one. Have you heard of Kendall's Spavin Cure? See ad.

Sheep and Dogs.

We give below an excellent article from a correspondent of the Montgomery Co. *Maryland Advocate*, upon a subject in which we take great interest, and on which we have written extensively for the past five years. The farmers, and sensible people who are not farmers but users of woolen fabrics, are beginning to open their eyes to the fact that, that all-important industry which is necessary to the food and clothing of our whole population is literally hampered and destroyed by the short-sightedness of politicians, who as law makers are afraid to put a heavy tax on worthless dogs, for fear of offending a class of voters who pay no taxes and own no stock but dogs that are starved and must steal sheep or whatever they can find to live upon. We also call attention to the article on this matter which we clip from the *Agriculturist*.

"Ever since King David prayed for 10,000 sheep for his people, sheep have been held in the highest estimation—and the raising of sheep second only to the cultivation of the earth, as a means of human subsistence and comfort. For food and raiment they stand unrivaled among the list of domestic animals, and as a cleanser and an improver of land they are of great value and assistance to the farmer.

In Scripture they are often referred to as an emblem of innocence and submission. Their natural enemy is the dog, also often referred to in the sacred writings, but always as an object of contempt or aversion, thus, 'am I a dog,' 'the dog returned to his vomit,' 'cast not that which is holy to the dogs,' 'beware of dogs,' 'without are dogs and sorcerers,' &c., &c. Thus in contrast stand these two animals. The one a necessity to man's comfort and prosperity, the other contributing only to his sport and pleasure, and nothing to his comfort and prosperity, but much to his and his neighbors' loss and injury. Sheep are taxed for the support of government. Dogs, un-taxed, run wild as common trespassers and destroyers of their neighbors' flocks. Can there be equity and justice in such une-

qual legislation? Actual exemption and protection to the destroyer, and no compensation or indemnity to the farmer, who, for his own and his country's good, desires to raise and increase the number of sheep necessary for the comfort and welfare of all.

The Grange has done well to gather statistics of the number of sheep destroyed by dogs in this country since the last legislature was in session. And enough is already known to show how remiss was the last and former legislatures in not providing protection to the farmers of our country from losses by sheep killing dogs, and at the same time as a warning and admonition to the new members, if they would escape the fate of their predecessors, not to neglect and overlook so important a part of legislative duty as to license or tax dogs, (a luxury at best) to an amount sufficient to create a fund to indemnify farmers for losses sustained by sheep killing dogs. Then Montgomery can double and treble her flocks and add largely to the wealth and prosperity of the country and to the comfort and welfare of the people.

It is a great mistake to think that farmers alone are interested in raising and fattening sheep. Every individual who wears a coat or sleeps under a blanket is interested in the increase and multiplication of sheep. No less valuable is it in affording cheap, nutritious and healthy food and the best manure for the improvement of land.—

Food and Raiment."

The Canine Curse.

Observing men are of the opinion that an ordinary dog—and he is always hungry—will eat and destroy in a twelve-month the equivalent of that, which if given to a well bred pig, would make him weigh at the expiration of that time, 300 pounds, gross; 286,000 such pigs would aggregate 85,800,000 pounds of pork, now worth at the home shipping station, more than \$4,700,000; requiring to transport them more than 2,860 cars, carrying fifteen tons each, or a train more than 61 miles long. This would represent nearly \$1,500,000 more than the entire amount paid in the State in 1880, for school, township and State taxes combined. It would build 9,400 school houses and churches, worth \$500 each, or would pay the average wages

of 14,000 school teachers, twice the number now employed. A condition of affairs of which the above is but a poor outline, is at the bottom of what is each year becoming a greater and more irrepressible conflict between the wool growers and the savage brutes that keep in jeopardy, or destroy the flocks that, protected, would enlarge and increase to the extent of producing the wool for which we now send so many millions across the seas. If the dogs are maintained as a luxury, they are a luxury we cannot afford, and should give way to something less expensive and productive of loss and misery.

The rearing of better classes of sheep always indicates a high state of civilization, where intelligence, comfort and competence abound, and no more unfailing sign of ignorance, squalor and poverty can be manifested than the presence of a varied and increasing assortment of flea bitten curs, unclean and of low degree. It should not be difficult to choose between raising sheep and growing dogs.—*American Agriculturist.*

Berkshires as Farm Hogs.

Joshua Wheeler, a representative farmer of this State, prefers Berkshires as farm hogs, and finds them both satisfactory and profitable. The shippers who buy his hogs say they can get a shade higher prices for a car of Wheeler's porkers than any other they take to market.

As an illustration of what good Berkshires will do under ordinarily good farm treatment, Mr. Wheeler states that last season he fed ten shoats from January 4th to April 4th, or 90 days in all. They gained an average of $17\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. per day, or a total of 1590 lbs. They were sold at eleven months old and weighed 310 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. each. While corn was selling from 20 to 25 cents per bushel, that eaten by these shoats brought their owner 60 cents.

In another lot he fed and sold forty head not quite 18 months old, that weighed 360 pounds each, and about fourteen of them were sows that had raised, previous to fat-tening, an aggregate of sixty pigs.

Mr. Wheeler is persuaded that if the Berkshires were not pretty well calculated to stand the rough and tumble racket incident to life on a new farm in a new country, they would not have done so well for him.

F. D. COBURN,

In National Live Stock Journal.

The Care of Sheep.

The man who seeks to become a flock-owner, because he expects to escape the care and work to which he has been subjected in looking after the details of some other business, will certainly meet with disappointment in one of two ways. He will either find that negligence here, as everywhere else, will bring disappointment and disaster, or he will meet the requirements of the situation, and put in all the time and labor necessary to success. The merit of sheep husbandry is, not that it can be successfully prosecuted without hard work and liberal expenditure, but that it *will pay* for these with so much certainty, and in such liberal returns as to give it merited prominence among the industries. The man who seeks to demonstrate to himself and others the minimum requirements of the flock, may succeed until mistaken economy becomes manifest cruelty, and even then may "gather where he has not strewn," but the highest capabilities of the flock will be left to the demonstration of the man who supplements the well filled trough and teeming pasture, with a careful scrutiny and foresight into the comfort and convenience of every animal. He will have provision against inclemencies of cold and heat, wet and drouth; will have winter and summer food convenient and plentiful; will carefully guard against danger and disturbance of every source—knowing from experience that these will insure a compound return for the time and money required for their consummation. Parsimony never pays the sheep husbandman. In proportion to his liberality, "such will the harvest be."—*Breeders' Gazette.*

DID HIM GOOD.—Mr. Charles H. Bauer, editor of the *New York Union* and notary public, in a late issue mentions the following: "Patrick Kenny, Esq., some time ago suffered much from rheumatism and tried almost every means to rid himself of this painful evil, but in vain. He was advised to use St. Jacob's Oil, which he did so successfully that all pain has left him and he is as healthy and as strong as ever before. Mr. Kenny is an enthusiastic advocate of St. Jacob's Oil, and it has done him good."

To Prevent Skippers in Bacon.

If a small piece of sulphur is occasionally thrown upon the fire for smoking, it will effectually prevent skippers and bugs from making inroads upon the meat; nor will it produce any effect on its flavor, save on the mere surface or skin.

INCREASED FOREIGN DEMAND.

To meet the increased foreign demand there has been an enlargement of production, both in the visible amount gathered by staticians and in the invisible amounts made for home consumption, while the economic value of time in production is better appreciated than was the case even ten years ago, and its results are manifesting themselves in increased production and in better margins of profit. Again, notwithstanding the average age of killing is much reduced, the average weight is increased. Thirty years ago the average weiget of hogs killed in Cincinnati was 200 lbs. It has been about 225 lbs. for the past three years.—*Live Stock Journal.*

The Atlanta Cotton Exposition.

The delegates of the American Agricultural Association held a meeting in the president's room of the exposition, on the 10th ultimo. Mr. Francis D. Moulton, chairman of the delegation presided, and J. H. Reall, secretary of the association recorded the minutes. The following members were present:

Francis D. Moulton, New York; Colonel F. C. Morehead, Mississippi, president Southern cotton planter's association; Colonel J. M. Jones, Texas; C. W. Wolcott, Massachusetts; Col. J. B. Mead, Vermont; Hon. A. H. Dumont, New Jersey; Hon. Ezra Whitman, Maryland; Alfred Mitchell, New York; H. M. Sessions, Hampden, Massachusetts; J. H. Reall, New York; Guy S. Frazey, Ohio; Rolfe S. Saunders, Southern Planter and Farmer, Richmond, Va.

Colonel F. C. Morehead, president of the National cotton planter's association, addressed the delegates and extended on behalf of the National cotton planters' association the best support and co-operation of the agriculturalists of the South, and suggested that the American agricultural association extend its work of collecting crop statistics and furnishing complete re-

ports of Agriculture. They advocated raising the department of agriculture to a cabinet position and an appropriation of at least \$1,000,000 per annum for their work.

Mr. C. W. Wolcott, of Massachusetts, said he was gratified that the meeting was held, and said he was glad he could go home and report the action of the delegates.

Col. J. B. Mead offered the following resolution, which was agreed to:

Resolved, That the delegates from the American agricultural association extend on behalf of the organization they represent, which seeks to promote the interests of all branches of agriculture in all sections of the United States, their sincere congratulations on the success of the International cotton exposition, and express their high appreciation of the superior display and great attention given to agriculture.

By Col. Morehead—*Resolved*, That we therefore urge upon the government the importatahce of increasing the appropriations to said department of agriculture to such an amount as will enable it to assume and carry out its great usefulness.

Resolved, That the present amount annually appropriated by Congress to the United States departmeet of agriculture, is by far too small for necessities of this great and growing country, being less than is appropriated by many third and fourth class powers of Europe.

By J. H. Reall—*Resolved*, In behalf of the American agricultural association, that we congratulate the National Cotton Planters' Association, and its President on the success of its recent convention and extend to them a cordial invitation to attend the convention of this association in New York the first Wednesday in August, 1882.

Resolved, That we invite the co-operation of the International Cotton Exposition and its exhibitors to co-operate with the American agricultural association in its national agricultural fair, which it is proposed to hold next year.—*Ex.*

Write to Mrs. Lydia E. Pinkham, 233 Western Avenue, Lynn, Mass, for names of ladies that have been restored to perfect health by the use of her Vegetable Compound. It is a positive cure for the most stubborn case of female weakness.

Journalistic.

Received the first number of Volume 134, of the North American Review. This able and popular monthly has entered upon its sixty-seventh year, with all the vigor of youth and the matured wisdom of age. Among the several excellent articles in this number, we find an elaborate and at this time peculiarly interesting essay upon "the moral responsibility of the insane," a joint production of five eminent doctors and scientists. This monthly review well deserves its great popularity.

"THE BREEDERS' GAZETTE" is the title of a new live stock paper issued at Chicago, and edited by J. H. Sanders; a weekly, price \$3.00. The first number is got up in the best typographical style, and gives promise that the contents of the journal will be such that as breeders will appreciate. The want of a weekly journal has long been felt by stockmen. Now they have one in the conduct of such an excellent editor, it is their own fault if it is not made a success.

Domestic Recipes.

FRUIT CAKE GOOD FOR A YEAR.—Half pound of flour and same of sugar, six ounces of butter, a pound of currants, a pound of raisins, some citron and cloves, four eggs, a gill of brandy and a small pinch of soda.

MUTTON SAUSAGE.—English mutton sausages make an agreeable addition to the breakfast table. Take some cold roast mutton, cut it in as large slices as possible, then take some bread crumbs, sweet herbs, salt, pepper, and moisten them thoroughly with two eggs, and put a small quantity in the centre of each slice; then roll it after the fashion of a sandwich and tie each one up as tightly as possible; lay them in hot, melted butter, and cook until brown and crisp.

SWEDISH RYE BREAD.—Set a sponge at night with warm water and rye flour, adding yeast, salt and a little sugar. In the morning work the risen sponge into a

stiff dough, using wheat flour or Indian meal, or both, but no more rye. Mould into smooth loaves and lay them on a clean bread cloth to rise, with a single fold of the cloth over them. When ready for the oven, wet each loaf with cold water, then take it from the cloth and place it in the oven—not in a pan; but on the bottom of the oven. According to Olga's theory, that is how rye bread is to be baked. Furthermore the baking must be slow and long, and when about two-thirds completed, the loaves are treated to another cold water bath which makes the thick crust just as it ought to be; both tough and tender and results in very good and wholesome bread.

The Hereford Cattle at Hayfields.

One of the oldest and best bred herds of this breed in the United States. Much anxiety exists with breeders as to what will be done with this extensive herd, now that the much lamented owner is dead. We have taken pains to ascertain a correct answer to this oft-repeated question, and can speak almost authoritatively, that the splendid herd of Herefords left by the Hon. John Merryman, at Hayfields, will be kept in all its purity and vigor, as it has ever been. But as the herd is very large for the size of the farm, in accord with the determination of the owner before his death, it is probable that a large portion of his stock will be sold soon at either public or private sale. Mr. E. Gittings Merryman, will respond to all inquiries. We rejoice that a sufficient number will be retained and properly bred so as to keep up this magnificent herd of pure bred Herefords, which have for so many years been the pride and boast of Maryland, and furnished animals for the breeders of this State, and of the far west.

It is worth remembering that nobody enjoys the nicest surroundings if in bad health. There are miserables about to-day with one foot in the grave, when a bottle of Parker's Ginger Tonic would do them more good than all the doctors and medicines they have ever tried.—See Adv.

MARYLAND FARMER

A STANDARD MAGAZINE,

DEVOTED TO

Agriculture, Live Stock and Rural Economy.

EZRA WHITMAN, Editor,

COL W. W. W. BOWIE, Associate Editor,

141 WEST PRATT STREET,

BALTIMORE, MD.

BALTIMORE, JANUARY 1st, 1832.

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THE MARYLAND FARMER is now read by more Farmers, Planters, Merchants, Mechanics and others interested in Agriculture, than any other magazine which circulates in the Middle or Southern States, and therefore is the best medium for advertisers who desire to extend their sales in this territory

We call attention to our Reduction in Price of Subscription,

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The subscription price is very low, and we think any farmer merchant or mechanic would find it worth to him ten times its cost. As an extra inducement, we will send (free, as a premium,) to each subscriber, one of the following valuable books as he may select, viz:-

Kendall's Horse Book,

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or Scribner's Lumber and Log Book,

Either book is worth to the farmer more than the price of our Journal, and by enclosing \$1.00 the Maryland Farmer will be promptly sent you for one year and either of the books you may select, free of postage.

EZRA WHITMAN.

Col. D. S. CURTIS, of Washington, D. C., is authorized to act as Correspondent and Agent to receive subscriptions and advertisements for the MARYLAND FARMER, in the District of Columbia Maryland and Virginia.

Our friends can do us a good turn by mentioning the MARYLAND FARMER to their neighbors, and suggesting to them to subscribe for it.

A Suggestion to Improve the Trade of Baltimore.

While other cities and sections of the country are showing so much public enterprise and making strenuous efforts to develop their resources and bring to their respective places, trade and capital, it does seem to us that Baltimore with its 350,000 people and high credit based on substantial wealth, is lagging in the rear to her detriment, and may be distanced in the great race for success, by her smaller sisters of the Union in the great struggle now going on for increase of manufactures and general prosperity.

It is true she has had her sesqui-centennial and her Oriole, but what did either of these efforts do substantially for her increase of power and progress? These shows were well enough in their way—they attracted crowds of visitors who left with our people, or rather with certain classes, perhaps some half a million of their money, but many were dissatisfied, and by their reports on reaching home many have materially damaged the reputation of the city and State.

Behold the immense Cotton Exposition at Atlanta, and see what an impetus to the Southern trade it has given and the grand introduction to the whole South it has offered to the thousands of Northern capitalists and Western men of enterprise, for employment of their money and to induce people to purchase homes in that fertile border, and to enjoy the delightful climate. So too, look at the great industrial building erected in Boston for the exhibition of New England industries—a structure so huge and so filled up that it challenged the admiration of the world. And so we find it with St. Louis, Cincinnati, Chicago and many other cities. But what has Baltimore done in this way? Has she any great exhibition hall or building devoted to horticulture, agriculture, mechanic arts or manufactures? Yet, we have a sufficiency of

material in all these industrial pursuits to make within ourselves a grand exposition that would attract strangers from all parts of the Union and from foreign lands, who would be astonished at our resources, and on their minds a lasting impression would be made, that would result in increased population—in building up manufactures of every sort with the aid of foreign investments, and in adding vastly to the permanent wealth of the City and State.

In view of the several public meetings of various character held lately in this city at which our eminent men have urged the importance of encouraging manufacturers by exemption from taxation all plants of manufacturing establishments, and furnishing for a series of years the water power necessary, either free or at very low rates, it would seem that the public demand these allurements and substantial advantages to be offered to foreign as well as home capital, as a great inducement to invest money, brains and labor within the limits of Baltimore, which by its location, reposing on the shores of the great Chesapeake Bay—an inland sea—is the natural gate-way to the Atlantic from the South and the West.

We therefore suggest that the liberal merchants, mechanics, artizans, manufacturers, and capitalists of this City and State shall call a meeting at some early day and pass resolutions to organize an association for the purpose of holding in this city a grand Exposition, which would reflect the true resources and advantages appertaining to this City and State. Let every organization of the City—every association and club send a delegation to this meeting or convention, and let the State and County Agricultural Societies send each a delegation—every farmer, planter, miller, miner, manufacturer and man who feels an interest in the welfare of the State or city, attend and consult together and have during the coming autumn a great exposition of the varied resources of our State,

showing all the various advantages that a home in Maryland possesses. It wants but the will and a little energy on the part of our people to accomplish this important object.

The Prosperity of American Agriculture.

It is a source of gratification to the farmers of the United States to learn from the actual statistics of the country how rapidly agriculture is advancing and how fast it has grown in the last decade, and how other employments directly connected with and supported by agriculture have progressed in the same time. We glean from various sources but chiefly from a recent address in New York of Dr. Loring, Commissioner of Agriculture, the following facts, which are worthy the study and sober consideration of every patriot and agriculturist in the land:

In 1870 the amount of cotton produced was 4,352,317 bales; in 1880 more than 6,000,000 bales. In 1870 the amount of Indian corn raised was 790,640,594 bushels; in 1880, 1,754,449,435 bushels. In 1870 the wheat crop was 287,745,926 bushels; in 1880 it was 450,667,032 bushels. In 1870 the crop of oats reached 282,107,157 bushels; in 1880 407,859,033 bushels. In 1870 the tobacco crop amounted to 262,735,341 pounds; In 1880 it amounted to 475,107,573 pounds. The increase of agricultural products was nearly one hundred per cent. in these ten years, and in the last year of this decade, from 1879 to 1880, out of this vast increase of our crops and products, our cattle export rose from \$13,000,000 to \$14,000,000; corn from \$43,000,000 to \$50,000,000; wheat from \$167,608,000 to \$190,546,000; flour from \$35,000,000 to \$45,000,600; cotton from \$209,852,000 to \$245,534,391; beef from \$7,000,000 to \$12,000,000; lard from \$28,000,000 to \$35,000, and pork from \$5,000,000 to \$8,000,000 annually. Of woollen manu-

factures the product increased from 1870 to 1880 nearly \$21,000,000. In 1870 the silk productions of the United States were valued at \$12,210,662; in 1880 at \$34,410,463. Fifty years ago the shoe and leather industry had hardly a national reputation. In 1870, however, there were 4,537 tanneries in the United States, employing 20,774 hands, using a capital of \$32,710,505, paying in wages, \$7,934,416 annually, producing leather valued at \$86,166,883, using more than \$9,000,000 worth of bark, nearly 9,000,000 hides, and 9,664,000 skins.

In 1840 the amount invested in cotton manufactures was \$40,000,000, and the amount of capital invested in cotton mills and subsidiary work was in 1880 over \$225,000,000. The amount of cotton used in 1880, was 77,759,416.

In the manufacture of machinery the capital increased from \$5,000,000 to \$40,000,000 in twenty years, and the annual value of the product is more than \$20,000,000.

The aggregate annual product of the manufacturing and mechanical industries of the United States is now over \$6,000,000,000. Of this vast product less than \$200,000,000 are exported. And of the \$9,000,000,000 produced by agriculture, less than ten per cent. is exported of the \$15,000,000,000 produced by our various industries nearly \$14,000,000,000 are consumed at home.

The annual value of the fruit crop of the United States is very near two hundred million of dollars. These facts are powerful arguments in favor of a home market and very encouraging to the tillers of the soil. They establish the intimate relation that exists between the farming interest and all classes of industries and peoples and the permanent importance of agriculture, on which all other occupations rest at last their hopes of success, and on the healthy and prosperous condition of which a nation looks eventually for its support,

its influences with other nations and derives power. Hence it is that agriculture should be fostered, and those who are engaged in the pursuit should be esteemed with honor and the highest consideration, for they are the majority of people who profess to govern themselves, and are the class from which the whole people derive sustenance and comforts of life, and whose industry supply the motive power and sustains the life of the nation.

The Hayfields Herd of Herefords.

We are informed, since we wrote the paragraph about this celebrated herd, that Mr. A. A. Crane, of Osca, Illinois, has purchased forty-four head of the Hayfields herd of Hereford cattle, consisting of the older cows, heifers, bulls, steers and calves, for the sum of \$11,000, at an average of \$250 per head. Mr. Crane has been a former purchaser from this herd in the lifetime of the owner, the late John Merryman, and therefore knows the great value of the same. It is understood that the balance of the herd, consisting of the very choicest, has been retained to perpetuate the herd in its purity, and by future importations and careful breeding to keep up its high standard, so that it will not be lost to the breeders of this State, as was feared at one time it might be.

COMPLIMENTARY.—Mr. J. R. E., of Pasquotank Co., N. C., with cheering words sends us a subscription in advance for the Maryland Farmer to January, 1885. Mr. W. L., of Georgetown, D. C., forwards check for payment in advance to January, 1884. Such evidences of esteem on the part of men who are prominent as citizens and intelligent as agriculturalists, are duly appreciated by us, and should impress the farmers as a body, of the value and usefulness of the Maryland Farmer, which we design to make the coming year, more than ever before, worthy the patronage of all who take any interest in agriculture, horticulture and stock-breeding as well as in household economy.

The Maryland Poultry and Pigeon Club.

Will hold its first Exhibition at Raine's Hall, Baltimore city, on the 31st of January, and February 1, 2 and 3, 1882. It will be a very attractive exhibition. Entries close the 24th of January, 1882.

During the Exhibition there will be a Carrier Pigeon race from Harrisburg, Pa.; the prize will be a handsome silver cup valued at \$25, and the proprietor of the enterprising Excelsior Clothing House has offered to present to the winner (as a special premium) a handsome hunting suit. This last offer is a generous one, but in keeping with the active liberality of this famous clothing house, which never fails to countenance substantially every worthy enterprise and rational public amusement. Such prizes will no doubt stimulate every breeder of Carrier Pigeons in this and neighboring States to compete and do the best to gain renown for their birds as well as the honor of taking such elegant premiums.

The Great Poultry Show at Louisville.

The first show of the Southern Poultry Breeders' Association, held in the city of Louisville, proved an immense success. The Association had a fine hall, efficient officers, and, a part from the slight confusion attending a first show, everything ran very smoothly. There was a magnificent show of birds, quantity being represented by 500 entries, and quality by such scores as 97, 95 $\frac{1}{2}$, 94 $\frac{1}{2}$, 96, &c. Breeders from Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, Tennessee, Kentucky, Maryland and other States were represented. The show was judged by Mr. B. N. Pierce, the well-known judge, and all the breeders seemed to have a good time. The exhibition of Asiatics was equal to any we have ever seen, and some scores higher than ever before known under Mr. Pierce.

Our friend, Mr. T. B. Dorsey, of St. Denis, won 2 firsts and a second on Silver Polish, 1 first and 2 seconds on White Po-

ish, 3 firsts, 3 seconds and a third on Golden Polish and blue ribbon for best in class 3 firsts on Hamburgs and blue ribbon, and 1 first and 1 second on Leghorns; in all 10 firsts, 7 seconds and a third on 18 entries. The Game Breeders' Association in the opposite hall was also a great success, there being the finest gathering of the clans in Pet Games ever seen in America. Here, also, our Maryland breeder did well. Mr. Dorsey winning 1st on an Irish Gray Stag bred by himself, a Muff Stag and Counterfeit Cock, bred by J. J. Turner, Jr., of Baltimore, and a Brown Red Cock, bred by Dr. W. Worthington, of Howard county.

We only want more breeders to have Maryland well represented at every Show in the land.

Our Poultry House Editor, T. B. Dorsey, Esq., General Secretary and Treasurer of the Maryland State Agricultural and Mechanical Association has resigned the position, and Major J. D. Ferguson appointed temporarily to the vacancy. The treasurer's report shows that the late fair was a success and that the Association is now out of debt.

Mr. E. C. Legg, of Kent Island, Maryland, has sold his fine imported Cotswold buck, "Royal Sherbourne," to Col. W. L. Washington of West Virginia. We had an opportunity to see this ram on the 12th ult., on its way to the home of the new owner, and must admit that in form, size, points, &c., he is the best buck of that breed we have ever seen in Maryland, or probably anywhere else, and we saw some splendid Cotswold bucks at the sheep show in Philadelphia, in September, 1880. This buck was in almost low condition, certainly not fat, but only in fair healthy, working condition. His fleece was superb and his top-knot perfect. As we felt his long, soft curls, we thought how many of our dandy friends would wish to have such, for he

looked all over as just from the curling irons of a fashionable barber. He will be a loss to Maryland but a grand acquisition to West Virginia. We hope our friend W. will assign him a full harem of beauties worthy of the embraces of so noble an animal.

Publications Received.

PART 27 of the Book of the Dog has been received from the publishers, Cassell, Peter, Galpin & Co., N. Y. This admirable book is drawing to its close and all sportsmen, dog fanciers and all who are fond of dogs, as pets, or for different uses, should by all means possess a copy of this beautiful and elaborate work of Vero Shaw, B. A. Cantab, of England.

HELEN'S BABIES—By I. Habberton. With an illustrated cover and with portraits of "Budge" and "Toddie," Published by T. B. Peterson & Brothers, Philadelphia, price 50 cents. *Helen's Babies* is a famously popular work, some 150,000 copies have already been sold. It is one of the most inimitable life pictures of childhood we have ever enjoyed in reading. Cold must be the blood of him who can peruse these pages without heartily laughing. It is a splendid after dinner book with but one fault, that it recalls so much home life one never stops reading until the whole book has been read, laughed over and the heroic uncle of the boys deeply sympathized with. No doubt thousands of Helen's Babies will appear this New Year as welcome guests in the home of the American people who love to enjoy the innocent frolics of children, their daring courage and honest simplicity—qualities so winning, yet sometimes uncomfortably ludicrous. Everybody should read *Helen's Babies*.

VICK'S FLORAL GUIDE FOR 1882.—Is just received and is certainly, taken all in all, in beautiful colored engraving, wood-cuts by hundreds, typography and sensible matter—has never been surpassed by any work of the kind in this or any other country. It is a book of one hundred and fifty pages and one thousand engravings. Any person sending to Mr. Vick 10 cents will receive this beautiful book fit for the centre table or appropriate as a holiday gift.

THE DAIRY.

For the Maryland Farmer.

Choice Butter.

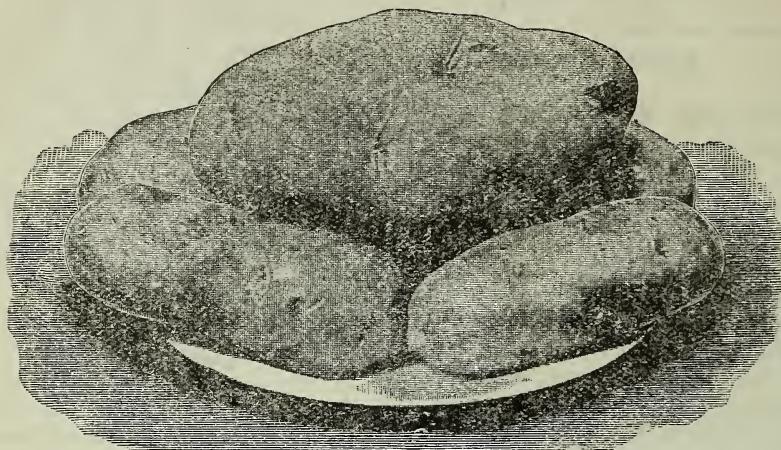
While choice butter may be the aim of the average farmer, far too many of them fail to make it even when they have fine butter dairy animals, without which it is impossible however to have a choice quality of butter, no matter how systematically or carefully the milk and cream may be handled afterwards. Where farmers do not make a specialty of butter, but keep merely a few dairy animals, it is not always possible for them to make good butter, either in mid-winter or in mid-summer, for it is the exception rather than the rule to find good milk cellars or spring houses on the ordinary farm, and this is the main reason for the low grade of butter which finds its way to consumers in most of the large towns and the low price obtained for it in the cities. The remedy for this naturally suggests itself, yet many are unable to expend the necessary cash and time to make the needed change. Many a farmer has improvised or built a suitable place during the slack time of winter, for the milk and butter, expending very little, if any, cash; and what has been done by one can be done by others equally handy with tools.

There are some farmers (we are not speaking to the professional butter maker, who has all the appliances needed as well as long experience) who destroy or impair the quality of what would otherwise have been good butter, by washing it too much and by overworking, the former destroying its keeping qualities and the latter ruining entirely the texture, making it smeary and spongy instead of that waxy texture which is admired by all judges and lovers of good butter. Salting by guess is another very bad method, as is guess work when applied to any pursuit or duty. When supplying a special demand it is frequently the case that the salting must be done according to some liking a very salty article and others not, though the former frequently is done to disguise the quality of poor butter. Our plan is to see what suits our special custom and then conform to that standard, weighing the salt every time and never

salting by guess. It is almost impossible to work the butter when soft, but as soon as it has stiffened up well after being removed from the churn it should have all the buttermilk worked out of it dry, after which the salt should be added, worked in well and the butter at once made up into pounds or half pounds and set away to harden, doing the entire work at one time being much better than working it over several times, this frequent working spoiling the grain and texture of the butter, no matter how nice it may have been when it first came from the churn. D. Z. E. JR.

Drying off Cows.

In December, most of the cows which have been giving milk through the summer will have their milking season brought to a close. The flow of milk with many of them has been reduced so low by the protracted drought, that it will be an easier matter than usual to dry them off. But care is always necessary in this operation, or evil will result from it. There are more cows injured by unskilled drying than many are apt to suppose. It often happens that a cow which has given milk regularly and freely out of all her teats during the season, gives milk of but three the next year, and the owner is surprised, and wonders what has been the cause. The cause lies in the drying. As the close of the milking season is approached the milk grows thick, with unusual proportions of butter fats and cheesy matter. If much of such milk is left in the udder for any considerable length of time, the watery parts and the fat will be pretty readily absorbed and carried away, to the relief of the udder. But the cheesy matter is not so easily removed. Absorbents take it up with difficulty, and if it remains long in the little reservoirs, of which thousands are distributed through the udder, it will coagulate, when the difficulty of its removal will be increased. The curd will grow hard by lying, and become a source of irritation. Inflammation will follow; and where the larger bits of curd lie, suppuration will take place; and when, finally, the sore heals, the surfaces will grow together and close the little tubes which lead from one reservoir to another, and conduct the milk down to the teat.—*National Live Stock Journal, Chicago.*



THE BELLE POTATO.

Engraved from a photograph of five specimens on a nine inch dinner plate.

HORTICULTURAL.

The Belle Potato introduced by Mr. I. F. Tillinghast, of La Plume, Lackawanna Co., Pa., bids fair to be celebrated as a great yielding sort and of superior quality for eating. In color it is light red, with the skin slightly netted. The medium sized tubers are usually very smooth and handsome in shape and appearance, but some of the very large specimens are somewhat irregular in shape, yet never prongy. Mr. T. says of it:—

"Last season I exhibited a bushel at the Pennsylvania State Fair, which consisted of forty-eight tubers, all fair and smooth, and this season though severely checked by the drought I have had single specimens weighing nearly two pounds each, at which rate only thirty would be required to make a legal bushel, and yet the table quality is remarkably fine for so large a potato."

Mr. Thurber of the American Agriculturist, good authority, says:—"A trial on the table was made to-day and the whole family endorse my verdict of 'Splendid in every respect.'

"I do not now recollect a better potato." Mr. M. Crawford, another capital judge thus speaks of it:—

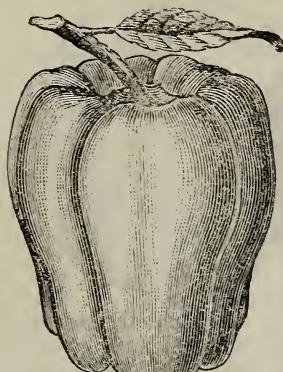
"Planted one peck on clover sod without manure in May. We had scarcely any rain from that time until they were ripe. They received only ordinary cultivation and yielded over seven bushels of the finest looking potatoes I have seen this year. A bushel of the finest contained 77.

"The quality is all that can be desired or as our girl said. 'They are just as nice as they can be.'

"Peachblows planted alongside the Belle yielded less than one-seventh as much. The Snow-flake has been our main dependence for some years, but until I find something better, I shall rely on the Beauty of Hebron for early, and the Belle for the main crop."

FLORIDA ORANGES.—We had the pleasure of enjoying some of these delicious oranges sent to the senior editor by our young friend, Mr. H. now travelling in the South. They are superior to any oranges from abroad, and some near day this tropical fruit will be produced in our Southern States in sufficient quantities to supply the demand for the best and choicest oranges.

Nice Yellow Sweet Pepper or
Mango.



GOLDEN DAWN.

This remarkable pepper is said to be the sweetest and most beautiful mango pepper in the world. Mr. Tillinghast says of it:—

"In shape and in size it is similar to the well known Sweet Bell, but different from it in two important particulars. First, unlike most mangoes, even the seeds may be handled or chewed, without detecting the slightest fiery flavor. Delicate ladies who have suffered from handling so-called sweet mangoes will appreciate this quality. Secondly, it is of a beautiful, golden yellow color, which makes a very fine appearance upon the table, especially when mixed with red varieties. So far as I can learn this is the first time a *sweet yellow* mango has been catalogued in this country, although it has been tested in this vicinity for a number of years and its value and character fully established."

• • • •

Wash for Fruit Trees.

The present and the first half of next month is probably the best time to scrape and wash pear and apple trees, in order to dislodge the numerous insects that are concealed under the bark and in crevices of the wood, as well as to remove the fungus clinging to the trunks and large limbs. A preparation of whale-oil soap, in the proportion of one pound of soap to four or five gallons of water, has been found to be a remedy for these fruit-tree pests. Some, however, apply a preparation of carbolic acid, sulphur and lime, freely diluted with water, as equally effective, and as being

also a protection against the blight and generally adding to the health of the trees. Perhaps the latter may prove the most efficacious. It is easy to give both a trial, and we have no hesitation in saying that the result will be highly satisfactory. We have often used the whale-oil soap in the manner suggested, with the best effects. People, on seeing our trees, have often asked us what was done to them to make them look so clean, smooth and healthy.—*Germanstown Telegraph.*

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The Gladiolus.

The Gladiolus, some years since, stormed and took possession of the heart of the flower loving public, but it is still extending the area of its control. The sub-varieties of Gladiolus now so widely cultivated are the product of crossing between *G. psittacinus* and a variety of this species known as *Gandavensis*, both of which came originally from south Africa. It is only about a quarter of a century since these seedlings first appeared, but during the intervening period they have multiplied indefinitely and there is now no class of florists' flowers more numerous.

The specimens represented in the colored plate are from the stock of named varieties, and were selected both on account of their fine form and the contrast in colors. They are not superior to scores of others in the list, and probably fifty plates of the same number of sorts might be painted from our plants when in bloom that would show equal merit, and yet all be different. Nor is this all, we find a large proportion of the seedlings raised every year, even if taken without selection, to be well worthy of culture; this is especially so if one desires a quantity of bloom, since the mixed seedlings can be purchased at quite low rates. Many of the most select named sorts produce new bulbs sparingly, thus making more expensive the cost of producing them.

The Gladiolus presents a style of beauty peculiarly its own, making it a conspicuous object in the garden in summer and fall; its erect, lance-shaped leaves, the tall flower-spike, the elegantly formed flowers, with their soft, rich, glowing and often dazzling colors, make an array of combined attractions greater than those of any

other of our garden occupants at that season.

The plants are raised with the greatest ease, since all that is necessary is to plant the bulbs in early spring, in good ground, and keep them free of weeds; they are subject to no particular disease or insect enemies.

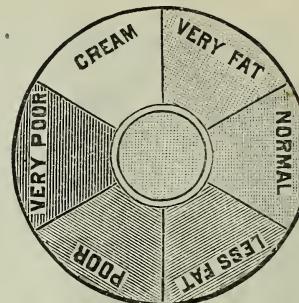
Each plant produces a number of new bulbs that, removed from the ground in the fall, can be kept dry in the cellar over winter without more care than potatoes. At the south, where there is no danger of freezing, the young bulbs can be transplanted singly in autumn into the places they are to occupy the next season.

If one has the patience and will give the necessary care, raising Gladiolus from seed will be found interesting. Two or three years culture will produce bulbs large enough for blooming; and some of them quite good.—*Vick's Illustrated Magazine.*

A PRACTICAL gardener makes the following important statement; "Last year, as a test of a frequent practice among growers of melons and squashes, I pinched the ends of the long main shoots of the melons, squashes and cucumbers, and left some to run at their own will. The squash plant sent out a single stem, reaching more than forty feet, but did not bear any fruit. Another plant was pinched until it formed a compact mass of intermingling side shoots eight feet square, and it bore sixteen squashes. The present year, a muskmelon plant, thus pinched in, covers the space allotted to it, and it has set twenty-three specimens of fruit, the most of which, have been pinched off. The pinching causes many lateral branches, which latter produce the female or fertile blossoms, while the main vines only produce the male blossoms. The difference in favor of the yield of an acre of melons, treated by this pinching process may easily amount to 100 barrels."

NOW IS THE TIME to subscribe for the *Maryland Farmer*, and secure a practical monthly of thirty-two pages of sound reading on Agricultural subjects, Horticulture, Dairy, Stock-Breeding, Bees, and entertaining family literature connected with the household. Only \$1.00 per year, with a valuable book as a premium.

Pioskop, or Milk Tester.



The above illustrated instrument for testing the quality of milk is certainly a very simple and reliable one, and being so easily understood and managed by any child or servant will be found a valuable addition to any family who desire to know whether their supply of milk comes up to the standard, and to know this is important where it is used as a diet for children and invalids. To butter makers it also offers quick means of determining the quality of milk given by the cow and also the effect produced by the different feed, as the result is at once obtained, and from a few drops of milk. The old plan with the hydrometers gives very uncertain results, which is fully exposed by the editor of the *Rural New Yorker* in a recent number and in the same article alludes to the Pioskop, as a most sensitive and reliable test, proven by numerous experiments made with his own cows. He further states that he knows of nothing so sure and sensitive as this, and will take the place of the lactometers or hydrometers, and the slow testing graduatic tubes which take twenty-four to thirty hours for the cream to raise. It is instant in effect and can be used and mark the result in one minute after the milk is drawn from the cow, and indeed it is thus only that milk can be tested with any accuracy, because its condition changes every moment after that. The instrument was invented by Professor Heeren, of Germany, and is imported by the well-known house of Messrs. Sharp & Dohme, of this city, which is a guarantee that there is no humbug about them. The price, being only fifty cents by mail, we think no one interested in milk will regret the investment. For two new subscribers—\$2—we will send free one of these interesting and valuable instruments.

For the Maryland Farmer.

The Great Cotton Exposition in Atlanta.

On the morning of the 6th of December I left Baltimore to attend the Atlanta Exposition. At Washington I met several other delegates from the American Agricultural Association coming from Vermont, Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, all meeting to take the 11 o'clock A. M. air line train for Atlanta, but something was wrong on the road, and we did not get off until 1 P. M. This made us two hours behind our regular schedule time, and as we were not able to "catch up," we had to run all the way by telegraph orders, which made the trip slow and tiresome, as well as more dangerous. At Lula, 66 miles this side of Atlanta, we stopt for supper, and I heard the engineer say the balance of the road was good, the track clear, and that he would run into Atlanta in an hour and three-quarters. But, when we got within 31 miles of that city, running at the rate of 40 miles the hour, on coming around a curve we run into the rear end of a freight train that was going probably at the slow rate of ten miles the hour. The result was terrible—the engine and tender of our train, and three cars of the freight train, were smashed to atoms, and both trains took fire immediately. It looked at one time as if there would be a total conflagration. There was no help to be had except from the passengers. They, seeing the danger, went to work and detached the cars, one at a time, run them back out of the reach of the fire.

Upon examining the ruins two dead bodies were taken out, and the charred remains of a third man was after a while found. None of the passengers were badly injured, but all well shaken up and much frightened. The accident occurred about nine in the evening, and the passengers remained standing around the burning cars until 4 o'clock in the morning, when a

special train from Atlanta arrived to take us in, where we arrived about 6 o'clock A. M.

Not being able to get rooms at the Kimball House we went direct to the Exposition Hotel, where we took up our quarters. After some little time for rest and refreshment we entered the Exposition, which was near the hotel. We had heard much said and had read much, and formed a very favorable opinion of the Exposition, and we expected to be much pleased with it, but we were greatly disappointed, inasmuch as it was a bigger thing than we imagined—it was immense—gigantic.

Our delegation, repairing to headquarters, were kindly received and every hospitality and kind attention proffered and shown to us. The officers manifested every courteous disposition to assist us and make our visit pleasant and highly gratifying.

The formal proceedings of the delegates from the A. A. A. will be found in the columns of the MARYLAND FARMER for this month. The able address delivered by F. D. Moulton, Esq., of New York, will be noticed fully, as soon as a correct report of it can be obtained.

I regretted that Baltimore was not more extensively represented at this great Southern exhibition. Each one of her large industries should have been present; those that were there made a display highly creditable. Among them was an imposing and highly attractive display made by Martin Gillett & Co., of teas, tea plants, &c., showing the mode of culture of the plant, curing the leaves and furnishing the delicious beverage to gratify the taste of the visitors. They received the high prize for the best Heno Tea.

The Baltimore exhibitors seemed in good spirits and evidently popular with the other exhibitors. Mr. B. F. Cole, of Weisenfield & Cole, has been very active and efficient and deserves much credit. One of the most attractive displays in the art building was that of our enterprising townsman,

Chas W. Hamil, of his own manufacture of silver and plated ware. Mr. H. has taken special interest in this Exposition and deserves great credit for his enterprise, and I hope will reap a reward for his labor. The Baltimore piano men, Wm. Knabe & Co., and C. M. Stieff made fine displays, as did also many others of our citizens, but I have not the space to refer to each one in particular. I spent six days at the Exposition and to give special descriptions of all and everything I saw would require as many weeks. Every foot of space in the buildings seemed to be occupied by worthy objects.

Besides the extensive buildings, many temporary sheds had to be erected for the accommodation of those who arrived later. Among the agricultural machinery outside the buildings I noticed seven large Traction engines moving about the grounds, and the engineers seemed to manage them around the track, up and down hill, turning short corners and twisting about as easily as if they were driving horses and buggies. The Traction engine has been greatly improved of late, and I have great confidence in its success for future farming purposes. Pennock's road-making machine, as it moved about at work, attracted much attention. There was a great variety of plows, harrows, cultivators, cotton-seed planters and rice drills, and a host of other agricultural implements of every kind and variety, all, or nearly all, in full operation, either in or out of the main buildings, which afforded great interest and delight.

Inside the chief buildings there was a continuous humming of the machines for manufacturing cotton, silk and woollen goods, specimens of all the Southern products of field, forest and mines, were in great quantity and admirably arranged. Great quantities of fine carriages and vehicles for pleasure and farming purposes, steam saw mills, grist mills and every variety

of useful machinery. Among the products of South Carolina was a huge exhibit of its famous rock from its phosphate beds. After the rocks are well washed a machine has been invented that pulverizes the same to an impalpable powder, saving, it is said, the trouble and expense of dissolving the same with acid, and being, it is claimed, more valuable as a renovator thus in its pure state than if dissolved by acid.

The grand feature of this Exposition that struck us so forcibly was its *practical* character. There was no attempt at glitter or humbug. Everything was exhibited on its merits for practical use and the whole exhibition was one to instruct the visitor by practical demonstration, and furnish lessons as to the products, resources hidden treasures and capabilities of the South, that could never be forgotten, while it struck the mind with wonder at the greatness of the innate power of the South.

Of course, *Cotton* was the chief article that demanded attention. Here the person who had never seen cotton growing, could learn in a day all about it, from seeing practical demonstrations of its being planted, its cultivation, its growth in all stages, from the seed sown, up to its state when blooming and its fleecy bolls bursting with maturity.

Then the manner of picking—the process of ginning—separation of the seed from the cotton—how it is baled by machinery—how it then is prepared for spinning and how it is woven, and even how rapidly it can be bleached, dried and made into clothing. It was a school in which a stranger could learn all about this great staple of the South, in which the whole world is interested and in which millions of money in this country and in the old world is invested. But the cotton exposition did not stop here, there was the value of the raw cotton seed exhibited for manure to resuscitate the soils ex-

hausted by cotton production—showing how the plant itself is capable of furnishing its own food. Then the luscious oil produced by pressure from the seed, equal to that from the Italian olive. The debris after the different qualities of oil have been extracted, is sold for \$20 or \$30 a ton to feed stock, and is beyond doubt equal to the oil from flaxseed, so long popular in Europe for feeding to produce milk or fat. All these wonderful qualities of this remarkable plant are laid bare to every inquiring mind.

In corroboration of my enthusiastic views of this great Southern Exposition, I take the liberty to quote from the admirable address of ex-Governor Jewell, of Connecticut.

"I saw the first great world's fair at New York; I have attended the Mechanic's Institute fairs ever since. I was at both the great fairs in Boston this year; I spent a month at the Vienna Exposition in 1873; I was a month at the Paris Exposition of 1867; I spent six weeks at the Centennial, and yet, for all the practical purposes of life, and which we want most to cultivate and push forward to their true consummation, I have seen no fair, exposition or exhibition which answered all the purposes for which it was intended as well as this one does.

And another able Northern man, Col. A. R. McClure, editor of *Philadelphia Times*, thus writes from Atlanta about its exposition:—

"But the new South has studied simple arithmetic, and its cotton exposition is merely a huge blackboard on which is presented to the whole South the plain lesson that the three hundred million's worth of cotton produced this year will be worth three hundred millions more when the ample and iceless water powers of the South shall be employed to whirl the merry spindles at home. This is the great lesson of the Atlanta Exposition, and the preliminary progress that has made the grand exposition possible, has developed a measure of invention and advancement in the South that is truly wonderful. No one can carefully note the cotton machinery at the ex-

position without accepting the conviction that even the old cotton gin and the old spindle will soon become integral parts of the same cunning implement, and that the raw cotton from the field sack will be ginned and spun by a single process. That once attained, or even the spinning of the cotton, with its two or three hundred millions of annual compensation assured to the South, its progress will outstrip the wildest calculation, and every channel of industry will share the impetus. It was a hard, up-hill struggle to lay the solid foundations for Southern progress, but it has been done, and the active men of to-day, will live to rejoice in the enlightened advancement and wealth and grandeur of the new South."

But I must draw this hastily written letter to a close. Notwithstanding the perils and inconveniences I incurred, I rejoice to have been an eye-witness of this great effort of the South to practically exhibit to the world her resources, her mighty power and the new energies that have been awakened in her chivalrous people.

E. W.

THANKS:—Our kind lady friend, Mrs. W., of Baltimore, sent to the associate editor, lately, a huge mince pie which was both food and drink. It was a remembrance of our boyhood days when we enjoyed the Christmas pies of our mothers and grandmothers. There was no stint in the quantity or quality of ingredients of the pie, it was crust and inside, all perfect, delicious and intoxicating—just as a mince pie should be! in defiance of local option and other foolish sumptuary laws. New England forever for pies and puddings!

YOUTH'S COMPANION.—Is a beautifully prepared weekly, printed by Mason & Co., Boston, price only \$1.75 per year. A nice paper for young people. We have received its calendar for 1882, prettily illustrated with half a dozen colored engravings, illustrative of the seasons.

LADIES' DEPARTMENT.

Chats with the Ladies for January.

BY PATUXENT PLANTER.

JANUARY.

"O Winter, ruler of the inverted year,
Thy scattered hair with sleet-like ashes filled,
Thy breath congealed upon thy lips, thy cheeks
Fringed with a beard made white with other snows
Than those of age, thy forehead wrapped in clouds,
A leafless branch, thy sceptre, and thy throne
A sliding car, indebted to no wheels,
But urged by storms along its slippery way,—
I love thee, all unlovely as thou seem'st.
And dreaded as thou art?"

To the lady-readers of the FARMER we sincerely wish a Happy New Year! This greeting is often given as a matter of custom, unmeaningly, perhaps thoughtlessly and heartlessly. How few, who thus express themselves have thought of its full meaning. To wish that the New Year may be happy to one, is to express a fervent, heart-felt hope that he or she may be spared during that time all the mental and physical sufferings and inconveniences to which flesh is heir, and that no disturbance shall come nigh to them in the way of grief for loss of friends, sickness themselves, or any other afflictions or disturbances to which humanity is subject, but that they may be blessed with every comfort and appliance necessary for human happiness during the year. The greeting, I apprehend, also intimates some condition that the person greeted should comply with to fully secure all the perfect happiness which is prayed for. These implied conditions are: to act well your part at all times and in all things, be industrious, take plenty of healthy exercise, be charitable in words and acts, indulge in all pleasant recreations but not in dissipation, keep regular hours and temperate habits in every way; be cheerful and contented with your lot; cultivate the good will of your neighbors and frown upon all scandal; let not your desires run beyond your means; rely with implicit faith upon your God, and He will, with these and other Christian duties performed, sustain you and shower upon you the blessings asked when a friend greets you sincerely with—*a Happy New Year!*

Fashion is a matter I seldom touch upon—as you will bear me witness, in our familiar chats. It is one of the things I do not take stock in. But the prevailing fashions of the present winter are so economical and so historic that I must commend them. The fashion of women wearing men's hats and overcoats is admirable, because,

where the man and wife are in full accord, the one remaining at home while the other is out, one coat and one hat serves for both to be fashionably attired in public. The hat a woman has on may have wreath or feather stuck on while she is shopping or visiting. It is simply removed when the man puts it on his head. The coat is a would-be ulster, but buttoned up both before and behind and worn buttoned up partly, or all the way, on front or rear, as suits the woman. It is just the cut of coat that the gentry years ago, who were splendid horsemen, wore when they rode on horseback and looked with contempt upon any other means of travel by young and athletic men. The overcoat was then slit up behind, so as to suit the position of the wearer when in the saddle. While riding, there was no hump behind and the garment hung well protecting the legs. When walking it was buttoned up, both before and behind, as the weather dictated. The women now wear this coat under the same circumstances on the street. If cold, they button up both before and behind. If moderately warm they unbutton on either side as they think best.

It is a sensible and economical plan thus to have one coat and hat as a dress suit for out door exercise or morning calls which will answer for both husband and wife or brother and sister.

Another admirable economy in male attire is tight pants, a revival of a fashion forty-five years ago, as I well remember, when the world was crazed about economy in dress. The same amount of cloth for pantaloons last year, when they were wide and comfortable, this year fashion requires only for *two pair*. Thus the same quantity of cloth gives two instead of one pair of pants. While this is the height of economy in one sense, it may not be altogether so. Forty-five years ago every Southern young gentleman over eighteen years old had his body-servant to help him dress and make his toilet, but now it is somewhat different.—*Then*, he could, with the help of his man servant, be squeezed or shook into his clothes, and have his shoes put on without the fear of bursting his breeches. *Now*, times are altered, and most young men have to do these extra jobs about their toilets without the help of slaves. Hence it may be debatable whether it is advisable for this *new (?)* style to be introduced under the present changed condition for the masses. It certainly is a "great saving" of cloth, but it is awful in looks on those who have legs like stilts—thin-legged—no shaped legs, it seems to me would protest against new style,

Spindleshanks is certainly to-day in the majority, and they should exert their power and suppress such a fashion by which the tailor is benefitted and they are ridiculed. The few who have led active, healthful, robust lives and have Apollo-like figures may well show off their finely-formed limbs, but the larger portion of the effeminate young men are wrong to yield in this matter to the Goddess of Fashion, as are also mothers who expose the spindleshanks of their daughters to the vulgar gaze by tight stockings and short dresses, to save a half yard of calico or merinos. This style for male attire, this year, is very commendable because it is a cheap one, and suits those who have well-proportioned limbs, but oh! how ridiculous it is, for your tall, lean, unproportioned sons of Adam who look like fat bodies stuck on May poles.

History repeats itself in fashion as well as in other things. I remember some four or five decades ago when men wore "tights," and women wore dresses very tight and short, and had to have assistance to draw the strings of the corsets so that the dress could be accommodated to the person. To this tight dress was appended the famous "leg of mutton sleeves" which looked like little balloons or big wings. The tout ensemble, presenting to the imagination of the wearer's admirer the figure of a lank, lean, half-starved angel with huge wings. Oh, Fashion, *Fashion*, thou art a most fickle, outrageous Goddess!

Before finishing my chats, I would beg my friends to read carefully and try and follow the directions, or improve upon them, given by Cousin Mehitabel in this number. She is a lady of education, refinement and experience; hence her words are words of wisdom for the young to listen to. The practical importance of housekeeping was to me this past Christmas illustrated beyond all doubt. On Christmas morn I received a specimen of the cooking of a lady friend, Mrs. M., on Catonsville avenue, Baltimore county, Md., consisting of angel, fruit, chocolate and jelly cake—four sorts—all made by her own hands, which would have beaten, or favorably compared with cakes of similar names from the best confectioners in the cities. Here is evidence of the fact that if our ladies will turn their attention to the culinary and other departments of the household they can soon rival the experts, or at least be able to instruct employees in the mystery of the culinary art and thereby save great anxiety and mortification often on the part of the loved husband who has invited friends to

partake of a well-served dinner, but who is mortified sometimes to find his canvas-back ducks stuffed by an Irish Biddy with onions, or his mutton dried up to a crisp. Oh! women, I beg you to try and learn how to cook and housekeep and save your husbands such a heap of blasphemy.



For the Maryland Farmer.

Hints About Housekeeping.

BY COUSIN MEHITABEL.

[Continued from page 293, Dec., 1881.]

CUTTING, MAKING AND MENDING.

No woman is fully qualified for a position as mistress of a household that is not thoroughly acquainted with *cutting out* and *making* all the *apparel* for her family, and the linen, &c., for her house furnishing. I know one wise mother who has so trained a family of daughters that they are able to make, in the neatest and most thorough manner, every garment in ordinary use by man, woman or child, excepting indeed boots, shoes and men's hats.

"Riches have wings," and no matter how prosperous their circumstances, the children of a family should be taught, by thorough practice in *useful work*, to be self dependent individuals, trained to do a dozen things, and to do each well. There are so many things to learn which require but little time to master and which may in a time of adversity be found of hitherto unreckoned value. It may not be necessary for the lady of the house to do all these things, but if she can do them she can instruct those whom she employs. While she does not know how the work should be done, how can she insist that it shall be done to please her? If she cannot explain, how can she expect her wishes to be understood? The numerous cut-paper patterns, the models, the systems for dress and skirt-cutting offer such facilities for learning that one is hardly excusable for not making use of them. It would be unfair to recommend any one of these, as each has its excellent features, and all are of great assistance, and of such moderate price as to be within the reach of almost every family. The use of the sewing machine is supposed to have done away with sewing by hand, but this is a sad mistake.

Neat Sewing is as useful and as much needed as it ever was. There is much finishing to do that cannot be done by machine, and how does it look

to see gussets, corners, buttonholes, and so forth, botched and bungled, as they too often are. And the buttonholes—ill-worked buttonholes—are a sad blemish on a nice garment, and yet how lamentably few women can work nice buttonholes. Workers of first-class buttonholes are so scarce that they command the very best wages and constant employment at the city shirt making establishments.

What would become of the *mending* if the *hand-needle* were banished? There is an art in mending neatly. It is a nice and tasty bit of work to set in or put on a neat patch. A fine, even darn, done with hair or with ravelled silk, is an evidence of skill, neatness and patience. Darning, as our grandmothers practiced it, is almost a lost art. *Clothing* of all sorts is so much more cheaply and readily obtained now than in their days that there is no need for such elaborate and ornamental mending, but it would be a comfort if good, substantial, comfortable, stocking-darning were not so rare. A young gentleman sat watching a lady darning stockings. She was doing the work very neatly.

"I never have my stockings darned," said he. "Why not?" said the lady. Because, at our house they sew them all up in knots and chunks, so they hurt me. I shouldn't mind your sort of darning."

I have more than once heard people say—"They don't darn stockings at our house." In homes where the family is large, means easy to get, and but few hands to do the work, it is cheaper to buy new hose than to mend old ones; but by far the greater number of people cannot afford to throw away a pair of stockings for a little hole or two, and yet I will venture the assertion, not more than one woman in twenty darns in a neat manner, and so as to leave the garment comfortable to the wearer. Nothing is needed but a little patience and practice. Any one can learn to darn neatly. It may be old-fashioned to say so, but it seems to me that a little of the time some ladies spend in crocheting, braiding, patch-work, &c., would be far better employed in putting into wearable shape some of the pile of holey hose that always accumulate in the house where they "don't darn stockings." Should none of the family need them, they will be most grateful to some of those "poor" whom our Lord tells us we have "always with us."

The length of this paper will not allow of anything beyond suggestions, so no particular instructions can be given. Almost every one has the capacity to learn sewing and its accessories,

the will to acquire and put in practice that knowledge, is what is needed. Each sewing member of a family should have her own *work-basket* or box, and there should be besides a general work-basket. It is one of the most annoying of little things to have one's work-basket tumbled up, cotton-tangled, needles lost, &c. The general basket should contain a supply of buttons of various kinds and sizes, bits of tape, a cushion with pins and needles of various sizes, some needles ready threaded, so as to be available at a minute's notice for those inevitable buttons that have "been off six months," or for any other hurried use. It is well to keep a very slender needle threaded with fine white silk to use in sewing up wounds.

There should be always on hand a good supply of working material. I have been in houses where the finest thread to be had was No. 20, and the finest needle No. 7. The collection of buttons, odds of all sorts, not more than two or three being alike.

While linen or cotton goods for hand sewing, are much more easily sewn if well *scalded* in good *soap-suds*, rinsed clean and nicely ironed. For machine sewing, goods are best unwet, so that sewing and material may shrink alike. Machine sewing being so much more close and tight than hand work, shrinks and draws the material. In cutting out economise material. If not necessary to do so for economy's sake it should be done for the sake of neatness. Use neatness and symmetry in all the details of making garments. Narrower, flat hems and frills are just as easily made as thick ones, and small, even stitches are no harder to take than great, uneven ones grinning like cat's teeth.

As the attainment of perfection in any branch of learning or workmanship, requires a special gift for that one thing, it may not be within *every* woman's power to become a thoroughly accomplished needle-woman, but it is within the reach of every one to learn to sew respectably at least, and there are few conditions in life in which a woman can be placed where a knowledge of the use of needle and scissors will not sometimes do her good service. Where the means for acquirement are not so easy, and the amount of mental exercise required so small, it must be the want of *will* that prevents any woman from knowing enough of the construction of her husband's wardrobe to be able to supply any deficiency therein if she should by chance be placed beyond the reach of professional seamstresses.

I do not wish it to be understood that these remarks are uncharitably applied to those poor women who, having been brought up in ignorance of needle work, have married and have now large families to take up nearly all their time. It is not yet too late for such women to learn much to help themselves, when they can find a spare hour for practice, but they should make it a special duty to see that their daughters do not grow up as ignorant as they did. If they should never come to need such knowledge, it may enable them to help others. A knowledge of honest work is sure to produce good in some direction.

MARYLAND STATE GRANGE.—Held its ninth annual session, in this city, during the second week of last month. It was fully attended. The State Master Henry O. Devries, opened the meeting with his annual address which was a highly creditable performance, carefully worded and exhibited, enlarged and enlightened views of the present and future prospects of agriculture. Among other statements in this excellent address, Mr. D. said :

" As to state legislation their is little to suggest; not that necessity therefore does not exist, but it seems useless to ask it when party legislation is so absorbing. Our tobacco, grain, dairy and fruit interests all need help or supervision, but year after year they are consigned to neglect, and whether it is wise to seek anew for any relief must be determined by the wisdom of the State Grange."

He also gave the remarkable fact that the business done during the year by the business agency of the Grange amounted to near \$600,000.

The Treasurer's report showed a balance on hand of \$334, and the Secretary's report showed 84 active granges and a membership of about 2700. There was much profitable discussion during the sessions and some reports by Committees of an interesting character. The meeting was harmonious and encouraging. We would like to give more particulars but our limited space this month forbids our giving a more extended report,

Fresh Texas Beef in Eastern Cities.

[From DALLAS HERALD.]

The shipments of fresh beef from Texas to the Eastern cities, already slaughtered, dressed and ready for the market stalls, must in the near future, grow to be an immense enterprise and business. We have the beeves, and taking them fresh from their rich, mesquite pastures or the fattening stalls, where they are corn fed, the meat will be more than a hundred per cent. sweeter, juicier and healthier than when shipped to these markets by rail and slaughtered there all feverish from their confinement, excitement and abstinence from water and food on the journey. All that is necessary is refrigerator cars, and of the practibility of these cars the *Boston Journal* says :

" In Quincy Market, yesterday, dealers in fresh meats were examining with a good deal of interest, samples of dressed beef which were brought from Chicago in a Tiffany refrigerator car in six days. The beef was as fresh and bright as if it had been brought from Brighton, and the market men pronounced it as desirable in every respect. Chicago dressed beef has been coming to this market for several years past, but there has always been a prejudice against it, as facilities for bringing it here in strictly prime order during the hot weather were not satisfactory. But it seems that all the difficulties have been overcome and that beef killed in Chicago can be laid down here in six or seven days in perfect condition. This is a matter of some importance to the public, for if fresh beef can be brought here from the west and delivered to the consumers in as good order as the beef killed in this vicinity, it must lower the price, as the cost of bringing it here will be much lower than on live cattle. This car load was shipped when the temperature outside was at 80, and brought here over the National Dispatch line on a Tiffany car, whose temperature was from 40 to 44°."

We can furnish bound copies of the MARYLAND FARMER for some years back at \$2.00 per copy.

We are authorized to dispose of some very choice Jersey calves and a few prime sheep of the Oxfordshire breed. Those wanting such stock had better write us at once on the subject.

GARRIER PIGEONS AS DOCTORS' MESSENGERS.—The *Medical Record* has the following: A physician of Erie, Pa., is training homing pigeons for use in his practice. Some of his young birds, put upon the road to make records for distance, have made very good time, namely, fifty miles in ninety minutes, sixty-six miles in eighty-two minutes. Homing pigeons are largely used by country physicians, both here and abroad. One doctor in Hamilton county, N. Y., uses them constantly in his practice, extending over two townships, and considers them an almost invaluable aid. After visiting a patient he sends the necessary prescription to his dispensary by pigeon; also any other advice or instruction the case or situation may demand. He frequently also leaves pigeons at places from which he wishes reports of progress to be dispatched at specified times, or at certain crises. He says he is enabled to attend a third more business at least through the time saved to him by the use of pigeons. In critical cases he is able to keep posted by hourly bulletins from the bedside between daylight and nightfall, and he can recall case after case where lives have been saved that must have been lost if he had been obliged to depend upon ordinary means to convey information.

MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.—On Friday, 9th ult., the Trustees of the Maryland Agricultural College held their regular meeting at the College. There were present Mr. Allen Dodge, Hon. J. Carroll Walsh and Mr. Carroll Goldsborough, on the part of the stockholders, and Hon. Barnes Compton and Comptroller Keating, of the State. Hon. J. Carroll Walsh, referring to the death of Hon. John Merryman, offered a series of resolutions, which were adopted. Hon. Wilmot Johnson, of Baltimore county, was elected to the vacancy in the board. Messrs. Walsh, Dodge and President Parker were appointed a committee to attend the next agricultural convention, to be held in Washington January 10th, 1882. President Parker's report was very full, and supplemented by reports from each professor of the college. The farm work of the institution this year was done entirely by students. *Towsonian Journal.*

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